

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 293

TUESDAY DECEMBER 18, 2012

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



## OPINION METER This week's poll:

Do you believe that the world will end on Dec. 21, 2012, as allegedly predicted by a Mayan calendar?

Let your voice be heard! Go to [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com) to cast your vote.

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The gunman in the Connecticut shooting carried an arsenal of deadly bullets.

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### LIFE & STYLE



Peter Jackson's "The Hobbit" led the box office with a haul of \$84.8 million.

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# 'Focus is on double murder'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's administration said yesterday it is concentrating its resources "on the more current and pressing matter" of the double homicide in San Vicente at this time, while it has yet to know the cost and legal procedures involved in extraditing former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham.

### » Joe DLG: Letter to Limtiaco wouldn't jeopardize investigation

Incoming House Speaker Joe Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said he doesn't see any reason how "writing a letter" to U.S. Attorney Alicia Limtiaco to initiate Buckingham's extradition could "jeopardize" a double murder investigation.

Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, meanwhile, has yet to make a recommendation to the governor on the issue of extradition as of yesterday.

Yesterday marked the 12th day since

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) informed San Nicolas on Dec. 5 that the U.S. Department of Justice is willing to pursue Buckingham but a request from San Nicolas to U.S. Attorney Alicia Limtiaco "would be necessary to initiate Mr. Buckingham's capture."

San Nicolas, however, assured lawmakers that "no criminal defendant should be allowed to evade justice, no one."

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan) pointed out yesterday that while

See FOCUS on Page 4



## Mahmood's arrest sought

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Rep. Janet U. Maratita (IR-Saipan) and her co-plaintiffs in a lawsuit against a sole-source, \$190.8-million power purchase agreement asked the Superior Court yesterday to issue a bench warrant against Saipan Development LLC adviser Kenneth Mahmood for failing to appear for deposition.

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### » SDLLC adviser fails to appear at deposition

## AFTER 'NO CONFIDENCE' VOTE: Hart seeks meeting with faculty

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
[moneth\\_deposa@saipantribune.com](mailto:moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

After getting a no-confidence vote from her teaching staff, Northern Marianas College president Sharon Y. Hart, Ed.D., is reaching out to the Faculty Senate leadership to remedy the situation.

In a college statement yesterday, it said that Hart was notified

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## WINNING PERFORMANCE



Members of the Koblerville Elementary School choir sing their hearts out during the 11th Annual Christmas in the Marianas Caroling Contest held at Paseo de Marianas on Dec. 15. The group won the competition in their category for the fourth consecutive year.

See story on Page 13



## December PREPAID SPECIALS

Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • [www.ite.net](http://www.ite.net)



Samsung u360  
\$39\*

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

\*Terms and conditions apply

# Local

## 5 top Math Court regionals for middle school

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

Five students were big winners in this year's Math Court competition for middle school held Saturday at the Saipan Community School.

Beibei Chen of Agape Christian School walked off with the gold medal, while the silver medal went to Won Jun Kim of Marianas Baptist Academy. Emerging third, fourth, and fifth placers were MBA's John Robert Tam, Young Jessica Cho, and

Samuel Park.

The Math Court competition is a series of meets that occur throughout the school year. At each meet, several tests are offered to measure the mathematical achievement of students at every grade level and award those students showing the highest levels of mastery at each level. The competition has three divisions: K-5, 6th-8th, and 9th-12th.

In Saturday's regional competition for middle schools, 32 students advanced to this round as finalists from the pre-

regional meets held at Garapan Elementary School.

For the competition's team winners, the gold medal went to the team of Agape Christian School-Marianas Baptist Academy, composed of Beibei Chen, Mengge Lai, John Robert Tam, and Samuel Park.

The silver medal went to Hopwood Junior High School's Team Hilitai II composed of Sophia Kim, Julie Da Hyeon Kwon, Ma. Chrizelle Omotoy, and Ivan Seo.

According to Math Court coordinator for middle school

Dora B. Miura, the individual medalists have the opportunity to join the High School Regional competition on Jan. 12, 2013, at Saipan Southern High School for a chance to be a member of Team CNMI. These students, should they choose to compete, are automatically alternates for Team CNMI in the national event.

The CNMI Math Court competition began in 2005. In 2010, the CNMI sent its first state team to the American Regions Mathematics League Competition.



**Mochitsuki Festival on Dec. 22**

In celebration of the Japanese New Year and as part of the ongoing **Christmas in the Marianas** celebration, the **Mochitsuki Festival** will be held on Dec. 22, 2012, at **Paseo de Marianas** in Garapan, Saipan.

In traditional Japanese culture, families and communities gather in December to make *mochi*—a dough-like substance made of glutinous rice—in preparation for New Year's Day. The process involves soaking the rice overnight, steaming it, and then pounding the rice with a wooden mallet called a *kine* in an *usu*, a mortar made from a wooden stump or stone.

Festival goers will have the opportunity to pound *mochi* at Saturday's festival, as well as enjoy and partake in other cultural activities. Dance performances will be made by **Okinawa Eisa** from Japan and the **Saipan Awaodori** team, and a karate exhibition will be held. Entertainment will run from 6pm to 9pm, including **Koberville Elementary, Mt Carmel School, and Kagman High**. Japanese and other international cuisine will be on sale. Games, face painting, and other activities will also be offered.

The Mochitsuki Festival is part of the Christmas in the Marianas celebration being held every Saturday in December by the **Marianas Visitors Authority, Team PDI, Friends of Paseo de Marianas**, and other tourism partners.

**CONGRATULATIONS to our Grand Prize Winners!**

**Happy Holidays CNMI! Thank you for a wonderful 40 years!**

PRIZE	TICKET NUMBER	NAME
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Prize</b>	<b>8339</b>	<b>Lucy Palacios</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize</b>	<b>5891</b>	<b>Steve Qian</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Prize</b>	<b>3767</b>	<b>Ernesto Dela Paz</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Prize</b>	<b>0425</b>	<b>Regina Kluge</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Prize</b>	<b>13220</b>	
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Prize</b>	<b>16333</b>	<b>Aileen Benavidez</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Prize</b>	<b>6746</b>	<b>Bobbie Cabrera</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Prize</b>	<b>7666</b>	<b>Geoffrey Melchor</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Prize</b>	<b>16033</b>	<b>R. Villanueva</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Prize</b>	<b>9373</b>	<b>Clarissa Adlawan</b>

To redeem your prizes bring your ticket to the Kanoa Resort and see Ms. Cory Quing.

**Kanoa Resort**

# McDonald's donates Happy Meal toys for Karidat's Toys for Tots

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Children served by Karidat Social Services will be receiving McDonald's toys this holiday following yesterday's donation from the local franchise of the world's largest hamburger chain.

McDonald's Saipan general manager Marcia E. Ayuyu, restaurant supervisor Emmanuel James Bautista, and marketing officer Ana Olaes presented 600 pieces of Happy Meal toys of different kinds to Karidat executive director Angie V. Guerrero and administrative officer Judy Pangelinan at the store's Middle Road branch.

Ayuyu said the donation is a way of saying thank you and giving back to the island community that has supported the restaurant for many years.

"It's something that I hope the kids will enjoy receiving. We'd like to give back because we're all family here," she added.

Karidat's Guerrero said all donated toys, including those from McDonald's, will be distributed to the children of families in need on Saipan.

"I'm sure the kids will appreciate the toys. It's a novelty for them. It brings smiles to their faces," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Depending on the number of toys they receive, Guerrero said toys will also be allotted to children on Tinian and Rota. She plans to meet with lawmakers from both islands and discuss the issue of shipping and to make necessary arrangements.

## Toys drive wrap up

Today is the last day for new or used-like-new toy to be received for this year's Toys for Tots program, sponsored by Marianas Health Services.

Maria Pangelinan, associate administrator for administrative services, said yesterday that the toy collection drive has yielded good results, with more donations expected throughout the day.

"It's a good humanitarian program for families having a hard time during the holiday season. So far, it's looking really good," she said.

Donors are requested to bring unwrapped and age-appropriate toys to be matched with Karidat's young clients whose parents will be responsible in wrapping the gifts in time for Christmas Day on Dec. 25.

Pangelinan said all toys donated to the Toys for Tots program will be turned over to Karidat in a ceremony on Wednesday.

To donate toys or for more information, visit Marianas Health Services located along Beach Road next to Morgen Building and San Jose Church or contact them at 233-4646 or info@marianashealth.com. You may also visit Karidat in Chalan Kanoa or call 234-5248 or 6981.

**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**  
McDonald's Saipan general manager Marcia E. Ayuyu, left, presents 600 Happy Meal toys to Karidat executive director Angie V. Guerrero during a brief ceremony at the store's Middle Road branch yesterday afternoon. Also in photo are McDonald's restaurant supervisor Emmanuel James Bautista, marketing officer Ana Olaes, and Karidat administrative officer Judy Pangelinan.



## UNWRAP the possibilities

# December PREPAID SPECIALS



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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### SSHS PTA meeting tomorrow

To all parents/legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students: The fourth PTA meeting for school year 2012-2013 is scheduled for Dec. 19, 2012, Wednesday, at 6pm in the Manta Café. Please join us as important information will be addressed along with upcoming events. We look forward to seeing you there. (PR)

### Progress reports for Kagman schools

For all Kagman schools (Kagman High School, ChaCha Jr. High, and Kagman Elementary School), the North East Cluster Schools' Joint Progress Report is set for release on Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2012. All Kagman schools will have a half-day schedule; dismissal is at 12:45pm. For more information, call the KHS main office at 664-3840, COJHS at 664-4100, or KES at 664-3911. (PR)

## 2012 DISCONNECTION DATES

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of these business days

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**April 20 • May 23 • June 20 • July 20**  
**August 22 • September 20 • October 23**  
**November 21 • December 20**

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## Businesswoman injured in robbery

A businesswoman was injured when an unidentified man assaulted her and her 16-year-old daughter during a robbery near Garapan Elementary School last week.

Minhong Ji, 45, of Jiangsu, China, sustained a facial bone fracture on the right cheek and bruises on her arms. A physician advised her to seek off-island treatment by an ENT doctor.

Ji's daughter was injured in the mouth. She has been studying on Saipan for three years now.

The suspect managed to run off with Ji's bag containing \$800 cash, a Sony digital camera, cell phone, her passport, car keys, wallet, driver's licenses for the CNMI, Guam, and China, ATM cards, and credit cards.

The robber was described as about 20 to 30 years old, a local, skinny, about 5'7" to 5'8" tall, and with curly short hair. He had no shirt on and was wearing only a pair of short pants at the time.

## HART

*From Page 1*

of the no-confidence vote by Senate Faculty president Amanda Angel Diaz Friday afternoon but that no further details were provided in the e-mail communication.

"The president [Dr. Hart] spoke about receiving notification late Friday afternoon from the Faculty Senate president that a vote had been issued. No details other than the outcome of the vote were provided in the emailed letter," the NMC statement stated.

Hart acknowledged, however, that with the faculty vote, there seems to be a problem.

"The vote by the faculty tells me there is a problem or a number of problems that have come, or should have come, to my attention," Hart stated, adding that she is still waiting to receive a formal communication from the Faculty Senate regarding substantive issues.

Nineteen of the 23 full-time faculty members gave a vote of no confidence in Hart's leadership during their assembly Friday last week in Building J1. Two faculty members supported Hart while the two others abstained from voting.

Hart expressed disappointment upon seeing the article on *Saipan*

## FOCUS

*From Page 1*

San Nicolas agreed with lawmakers' position, he "didn't offer a solution to the problem."

"I have high regard for the current AG. But I'm very concerned he has not expressed any explanation to address and take care of the problem. He never said he'll write to Limtiaco or search for any money for this," Reyes said.

Private citizens and elected officials earlier said they would donate money or raise funds to cover the extradition costs, although Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said there's no need to do so because while cost is a factor, it is not a deciding factor.

Lawmakers pointed out that Buckingham "continues to be a fugitive from justice," after the CNMI Supreme Court denied the former AG's petition to overturn the trial court's order declaring him so.

Despite his concerns, Reyes reiterated that he hopes San Nicolas "will do the right thing."

The AG had said he is "not at liberty to state with specificity what I will do

Ji, through James Han of QQ Car Rental who served as an interpreter, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that she arrived on Saipan on Nov. 28, 2012, to visit her daughter and husband, who works in Guam. Ji was supposed to return to China on Dec. 20, 2012.

Ji said the robbery happened on Dec. 11 at 8:30pm in front of the Capitol Hotel near Capitol Bowling and Garapan Elementary School.

Ji said she and her daughter were heading back to Capitol Hotel after shopping in western Garapan and were about 20 meters away from the hotel when the suspect appeared from behind.

Without saying a word, the suspect punched Ji four times in the face, knocking her out. The suspect then punched her daughter in the mouth.

The robber grabbed Ji's bag and ran toward a red pickup truck that was parked outside the Garapan Elementary School. The suspect jumped into

*Tribune* yesterday about the Faculty Senate's action, saying that NMC continues to operate in a professional, ethical manner.

"The president was saddened to see the comments in Monday's *Saipan Tribune*. The college wants to clarify points made in the press. NMC has a number of policies and procedures in place that serves as a check and balance system. We continue to operate in a manner that is professional, ethical, and in line with higher education practices," stated the college.

Hart urged the college to come together during this time, to work together and to positively address each and every issue. "This is a stressful time, but working together for the betterment of the college and our students is key," she added.

Hart said she issued a letter to all college employees yesterday.

In yesterday's statement to the media, the college indicated that "the president is tasked to address a myriad of institutional challenges that can be both internal and external."

"And often with a new president, changes and accountability occur (and with these changes, some of those affected may feel the need to challenge the president's authority). Yet, it is the president's responsibility to listen to all stakeholders and to do so in an environment that provides a sense of fairness

at this time" but he said he agreed with the delegate that extraditing Buckingham to the CNMI "would help restore trust and confidence" in the Office of the Attorney General.

Press secretary Angel Demapan echoed yesterday Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos' statement on Friday that the extradition "is more of a legal policy issue and we have not come to that point yet."

He said "at this point in time, the administration doesn't know what the cost would be as well as the legal procedures of such an undertaking."

"At this time, the administration is concentrating its resources on the more current and pressing matter of the tragic double homicide case that has shaken our community," Demapan added.

Demapan was referring to the discovery of the bodies of a husband and wife in a San Vicente home on Dec. 8,

two days after they were believed to have been murdered when they were not able to pick up their 6-year-old son in school that Thursday, Dec. 6.

"This case is an extreme criminal case that warrants all our investigative and legal resources as authorities try to get to the bottom of such a gruesome



Minhong Ji, 45, of Jiangsu, China, sustains a fracture on the right cheek and bruises on her arms after being robbed near Garapan Elementary School last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the bed of the truck, which then sped off toward western Garapan.

The truck was described as having a noisy muffler.

When Ji regained consciousness, she was already in the hospital.

"Before, I love Saipan. Now, this place becomes horrible. Me and my family are very scared now here," said Ji, who wants to return to China but is having a hard time because her passport was among the items stolen. (*Ferdie De La Torre*)

and equality," added the statement.

NMC has two types of employees: faculty and staff. According to the statement, NMC has 160 full-time employees and over 50 part-time employees. In addition, the college serves approximately 1,300 full-time students and over 20,000 community members.

"The president has an open-door philosophy and has welcomed and continues to welcome everyone to meet with her. Furthermore, Hart reminded the college community that a process is in place to take matters forward for review, consideration, or complaint," it added.

Sources of *Saipan Tribune* who asked not to be named earlier disclosed that the faculty lost confidence in Hart's leadership due to alleged financial mismanagement, unethical conduct, and jeopardizing accreditation.

Among the issues that concerned faculty, sources said, include overspending of college funds for the president's off-island travel that amounts to more than \$200,000 in fiscal year 2011; a no-bid procurement of used tablet computers from Florida; amended recruitment procedures that allegedly favor new off-island hires; and allegations of favoritism, preferential treatment, and unfair compensation practices.

Hart is also being criticized for the sole-source contract for her husband for the new college foundation.

crime that has no place in our community, and more importantly, has left a young innocent child without his parents," the press secretary added.

Deleon Guerrero said writing a letter to Limtiaco to initiate the extradition proceeding won't jeopardize the double homicide investigation.

"It's a matter of making a decision," he said in a phone interview.

Buckingham is facing criminal charges in connection with his alleged hosting of a political campaign in 2010 for the governor's delegate candidate, and approval of a sole-source ARRA management contract. The complaint was later amended to include obstruction of justice in August 2012 when he allegedly used police and ports police officers to shield him from being served a penal summons.

He left the CNMI a day after signing a no-bid, \$190.8-million power purchase agreement, now under preliminary injunction. That agreement was among the issues in a defeated resolution impeaching the governor for 16 allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony. The impeachment resolution will be re-introduced in January.

## House JGO mulls inviting Fitial to talk about PPA

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

ity will re-introduce the impeachment resolution in January.

But the composition of the current JGO Committee may present challenges. Three of the six members voted against the impeachment resolution in October: vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota).

Torres had already pulled out his Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee from the joint investigation with the JGO panel on the 25-year power purchase agreement to build a 50MW diesel power plant.

Three other JGO panel members voted in favor of the impeachment resolution: Demapan, Rep. Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan), and Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan). Yumul and Sablan were co-authors of the resolution.

The PPA is under preliminary injunction. Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan), Yumul and the CNMI Senate filed a taxpayers' lawsuit against pursuing the PPA. Some lawmakers expressed concern that inviting Fitial and SDLLC may jeopardize not only the case but also the impeachment process. They said Fitial will have a chance to defend his position on the PPA once the Senate conducts a trial when the House impeaches him next year.

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 21st birthday to you my Samoan sister, Joana! I hope you have a great one, girl! I love and miss you! Take care and have a blast! Greetings come from Gg, Mom and Dad Penny and Joe Norita, families, and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 18th birthday to Peter Lieto, who is celebrating his special day today, Dec. 18! May the Lord fill your life with many, many blessings! Love, Dad, Mom, Frankie, Anna, Marie, and Denang.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 5th birthday to our sweet girl, Sophia Joshabelle Tenorio Muña, who is celebrating her special day today! Enjoy your birthday and we love you always. Shoutout coming from Mom, Dad, your sister, and the whole family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## MAHMOOD

*From Page 1*

ents sought to depose Mahmood and served him a subpoena on Dec. 4 to testify at a deposition.

He said Mahmood filed a motion to quash the subpoena on the basis that he did not receive the witness fee. The lawyer noted that under the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 45, no witness fee was given because the plaintiffs are elected officers and/or an entity of the Commonwealth.

Quichcho said that Mahmood did not appear for his deposition yesterday at 9am.

"Plaintiffs and the good people of the CNMI request that a bench warrant be issued for Kenneth Mahmood for his flagrant disregard of the subpoena that was properly served on him," Quichcho added.

SDLLC counsel William Fitzgerald filed last week a motion to prevent Mahmood and Osborne from attending the deposition, which according to them, was filed prematurely.

Fitzgerald said the court should issue a protective order because the plaintiffs filed deposition notices in contravention of civil procedures.

The Senate, Maratita and Rep. Ray Anthony Yumul (IR-Saipan) are suing Fitial, former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and SDLLC in a bid to invalidate the 25-year power purchase agreement.

As a result, Quichcho said his cli-

## DEQ warns vs foreign pesticides

The Division of Environmental Quality is reminding the public that the importation and selling of foreign or misbranded pesticides and pesticide devices is illegal. Products that may be imported or sold in the CNMI are legal products that are registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and are properly labeled in the English language.

All pesticides must be labeled with the name of the pesticide in bold letters, restricted use designation, description of which pests are controlled, chemical name of pesticide, active ingredients and percentages, inert ingredients, EPA registration number, patent numbers, directions for proper use and appropriate signal words such

as caution, warning or danger poison. Misbranded pesticides also refer to products that bear any statement, design, or graphic representation that is false or misleading.

The legal definition of a pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest. Many household products are pesticides and can include kitchen, laundry and bath disinfectants and sanitizers. Products that kill mold and mildew are also considered pesticides.

The importation, sale, or distribution of illegal pesticides in the CNMI places the community, especially children, at risk of being poisoned. The DEQ Pesticide Management Branch is

charged with the responsibility to regulate the importation, sale, and distribution of pesticides, legal or illegal, to ensure public health and a clean and healthy environment. DEQ staff regularly inspects business establishments for any misbranded products. Should misbranded items be found, all misbranded pesticides will be confiscated and penalties may be assessed.

The CNMI Pesticide Regulations are available to any interested party. Call or visit the DEQ Pesticide Management Branch at 664-8522, located along Chalan Pale Arnold at the Gualo Rai Center or visit the DEQ website at [www.deq.gov.mp](http://www.deq.gov.mp). Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. (DEQ)

## Rotary donates \$1K to Palau relief efforts

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan will be donating \$1,000 to help the ongoing reconstruction efforts in Palau following the devastation caused by super typhoon Bopha.



Shilling

island nation where hundreds of families lost their homes.

Rotary president Pete Shilling said during Tuesday's meeting that he and other club officers convened to discuss the donation and bring it up to their membership.

Some 20 Rotarians present at the meeting unanimously voted to approve the donation.

"Thank you very much for your support," Shilling told his

fellow Rotarians.

He said the Rotary Club of Saipan will work sending the donation through wire transfer to the Rotary Club of Palau.

In other news, the Rotary Club of Saipan will hold its annual Christmas party tonight at the Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club.

The event, which will have the theme "Sparkle of Peace," will feature a full program that will include the election of officers and directors and toy donations to the CNMI Salvation Army.

**A season to celebrate**

**Send or receive money through Western Union and win prizes**

**A reason to rejoice**

Send or receive money through Western Union and have the chance to win in the 'Send/Receive & Win Christmas Promo' starting October 22, 2012.

Ten weekly draws will be held from October 30, 2012 to January 2, 2013. Each week, Western Union will be giving away:

- thirty (30) \$5 Docomo Pacific prepaid phone cards;
- four (4) \$25-worth of Herman's Modern Bakery coupons;
- one (1) \$50-worth MITA Travel Certificate;
- one (1) \$100-worth MITA Travel Certificate;
- ten (10) Hollywood Theater movie passes;
- one (1) \$100 cash.

Winners can claim their prizes at: MITA, Garapan, Saipan; Tinian Fuel Services, San Jose, Tinian; and Rota Merchandising Corporation, Songsong, Rota. For more information about this promo, please visit the nearest Western Union outlet.

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# New Ferrari model cars

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With a cash purchase of 7 gallons or more of Shell V-Power fuel, get your Ferrari model car for only \$0.99.

Or, with every Lucky 7 redemption, get a FREE Ferrari model car.

Plus, get Lucky 7 Double Points with Shell V-Power gas purchase.

Shell V-Power

Offer good while supplies last. See store for rules.

## Guam magazine names Executive of the Year nominees

**TAMUNING, Guam**—*Guam Business Magazine* announced Monday the names of the nominees for 2012 *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year. They are Preston J. Antonini, general manager of the DFS Tumon Bay Galleria; Jose C. Ayuyu, president and owner of JCA Inc. which does business as McDonald's of Saipan, president and owner of RJ Corp., president of Paradise Realty Inc., and proprietor of Dandan Postal Services; Paul K. Baron, Pacific Business Group manager of GHD Inc.; Agustin Davalos, Citi country officer/country business manager for Citibank N.A.-

Guam; Jerrold C. "Jere" Johnson, president of Hawaiian Rock Products; Sandra H. McKeever, president of Asia Pacific Financial Management Group; Christopher S. Murphy, principal broker of The Real Estate Professionals; and Rizk C. Saad, president of American Watertek and owner of NuForm Fitness.

The annual Executive of the Year award is presented in order to recognize executives who have made outstanding contributions to the local business community and raised the bar in the field in which they are involved.

The name of the winner has traditionally been held secret by

the magazine until the unveiling of the January-February issue—featuring a commissioned portrait of the winner on the cover—on the night of the gala.

*Guam Business Magazine* will celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year award on Jan. 12, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency Guam. Proceeds from the gala event will benefit the Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Tickets, at \$150 per person, for the Jan. 12 award gala may be purchased from Chita Blaise, executive director of the American Red Cross, by calling



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\* Miles accrued, awards, and benefits issued are subject to the rules of the United MileagePlus program. Please allow 6-8 weeks for miles to be posted to your account. United may change the MileagePlus Program including, but not limited to, rules, regulations, travel awards and special offers or terminate the MileagePlus Program at any time and without notice. Bonus award miles, award miles and any other miles earned through non-flight activity do not count or qualify for Premier® status unless expressly stated otherwise. United, its subsidiaries, affiliates and agents are not responsible for any products and services of other participating companies or partners. Taxes and fees related to award travel are the responsibility of the member. The accumulation of mileage or Premier status does not entitle members to any vested rights with respect to the program. MileagePlus participation may not be permitted in some countries. United and MileagePlus are registered service marks. For complete details about the MileagePlus program, go to [www.united.com](http://www.united.com).

\*\* Subject to credit approval. Apply by 12/31/12 and if you are approved, you'll receive 10,000 MileagePlus bonus miles upon account opening, 5,000 MileagePlus bonus miles with your first purchase by 4/30/13 and an additional 20,000 MileagePlus bonus miles when you spend \$2,500 on qualifying purchases within the first four months of opening your account. Please allow six to eight weeks after completed qualifying activity for bonus miles to be posted to your MileagePlus account.

472-6217 or by emailing chita.blaise@guamredcross.org.

Past recipients include Robert H. Jones of Triple J Enterprises (1983); Philip J. Flores of BankPacific (1985); Paul M. Sablan of Century Group of

Calvo of Calvo Enterprises Inc. (1992); Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS Saipan (2000); Juan T. Guerrero of Herman's Modern Bakery Inc. (2003); David M. Sablan of Century Group of

Companies (2005); Laura Lynn V. Dacanay of First Hawaiian Bank (2008); Jerry Tan of Tan Holdings (2009); and Lourdes A. "Lou" Leon Guerrero of Bank of Guam (2010). (PR)

## Woman in immigration fraud wants probation

The woman found guilty of immigration fraud wants the federal court to sentence her with probation.

In an appeal filed Thursday, Li Wen Tang's lawyer, Colin M. Thompson, argued that Tang's personal history and the facts and circumstances of her conviction warrant a sentence of probation for his client.

Tang was found guilty of immigration fraud for lying in her application to register for permanent residence or adjust status with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service.

Thompson said that given the offense for which Tang was charged, a sentence of probation would be more than sufficient

and not greater than necessary to effectuate the purposes of the sentencing.

The lawyer said that based on the sentencing guidelines, the base offense level for his client is eight. Since Tang has no criminal history, the imprisonment range is zero to six months and there are no special offense characteristics that merit increasing the offense level.

Tang submits that she has no prior criminal history, limited education, limited English speaking ability, consistent employment history, lack of guidance in youth, and family ties to Saipan that should be considered in the determination of her sentence.

The document stated that

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**Office of the Secretary of Public Works**  
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950



**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
DPW/FHWA-13-IFB-001

**ROUTE 31, CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE II-B FEDERAL AID PROJECT NUMBER CM-NH-0031 (015)**

**RE-BID PACKAGE**

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, Phase II-B**, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package consisting of Plans, Specifications and Bid Documents will be available on or after **December 4, 2012** at Pacific Quick Print & Post, located in Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, is required to defray the cost of printing the package.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

A **mandatory** Pre-bid Conference is scheduled for **December 21, 2012 9:00 a.m.** Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building, Saipan. After the pre-bid there will be a site visit for Route 31, Phase II-B. DPW encourages prospective bidders to see the existing condition and the complexity of the proposed project. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 9, 2013** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that the full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who have obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each of the addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at 234-9828/38 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW/FHWA-13-IFB-001**". For bidder within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), **January 14, 2013**. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), **January 14, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pitcom.com](mailto:procurement@pitcom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 14, 2013**, and must be received no later than **January 24, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:30 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), on **January 29, 2013**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), on **January 17, 2013**.

A bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". For Bid Bonds, surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (CNMI Department of Commerce), as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIC 570-30.3-301 of the Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

The contractor submitting an unacceptable payment of performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

### Compliance with Local and Federal Laws and Other Certifications:

1. Bids shall include a certification from the contractor's principal certifying that the contractor is in compliance of all applicable Local and Federal Laws and that all work performed in accordance with said bid shall be in compliance with Local and Federal Laws.
2. Sub-contractors must also comply with item 1 of this section.

3. Bids shall also include a certification from the contractor's principal certifying that the contractor shall comply with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Buy American Provision (ARRA Title XVI, Section 1605) for all materials purchased utilizing ARRA funds.

Performance time for completion of this project is three hundred days (300) working days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for the delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to table 108-1 of the Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects, FP-96.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the American Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the FHWA Federal aid Territorial Transportation Improvement Program (TTIP). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by FHWA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to bids and waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO  
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON  
Director of Procurement & Supply

## Feds OK \$1.114M to buy 2 buses

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Commonwealth Transit Authority advisory board chair Thomas J. Camacho said that the federal government awarded and executed on Friday a \$1.114-million funding to be able to buy two 15- to 20-passenger buses that will provide Saipan with public flexible-route transportation system, hire personnel for COTA, and develop request for proposals for equipment and required management plans.

Camacho said with the funding, COTA would be able to solicit proposals for the development of a CNMI transportation master plan, transportation management plan, transportation financial management plan, human services coordination transportation plan, and emergency preparedness plan, among other things.

It will also allow the office to fund a feasibility study of Saipan's flexible route system,

## \$40K for Tinian patients, programs pushed

Rep. Trenton Conner (IR-Tinian) pre-filed on Friday a local bill appropriating \$40,000 in poker license fees for Tinian patients and other programs. The speaker said he might call for a session this week, wherein Conner and other members could formally introduce their bills.

Under Conner's bill, \$27,000

including the feasibility of inter-island ferry led by the Department of Public Works' Highway Program.

Camacho, the governor's special assistant for public transportation, told reporters that the U.S. Federal Transit Authority

approved the urbanized formula funding of \$1,114,853 on Friday and will soon be ready for drawdown.

"This will [help] initiate the administrative functions of COTA," he said, adding that the mini-buses alone could cost some \$70,000 each, depending on the bids.

The "expanded" transportation service using mini-buses on Saipan is in addition to the para-transit system known as the Saipan Call-A-Ride for people with disabilities and the elderly or man'amko. Camacho said the goal is for COTA to take over the operations of the Saipan Call-A-Ride.

In the meantime, however, COTA is asking the Saipan and

for patients needing emergency medical referral assistance.

House Local Bill 17-94 also proposes to give \$2,000 to the Tinian Senior Citizens Center to replace its air-conditioning system.

The remaining \$7,000 is proposed for the Tinian Mayor's Office to buy two riding mowers. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to temporarily fund the Saipan Call-A-Ride's operation until COTA gets to use the federal funds it received. The request for lawmakers' funding has been reduced to \$41,000, from the original request of \$44,000.

COTA hopes to bring down the cost of public transportation from \$6 per segment in the Saipan Call-A-Ride to \$1.50 to \$2 per segment. The program will be expanded to Rota and Timian later.

The \$1.114-million funding is just the first round, Camacho said. COTA expects another \$1.079 million funding under the Veterans Transportation and Community Living II grant.

This would be used to acquire a transportation management software and hardware for vehicle dispatch, reservation, scheduling, billing, communications, route, vehicle location tracking, fare card systems, maintenance and reporting, among other things.

## INVENTORY SALE

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	NEGATIVE PS PLATE DEVELOPER 5 LITERS <b>\$37.00</b>		SAPPHIRE FILM DEVELOPER REPLENISHER 5 LITERS <b>\$30.00</b>		SAPPHIRE FILM FIXER REPLENISHER 5 LITERS <b>\$30.00</b>
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	ABC MASTER SPRAY POWDER 1 KG. <b>\$13.25</b>		WESTERN PN DEVELOPER 1 GAL. <b>SOLD OUT</b> <b>\$78.00</b>		BLUE LABEL PLATE CLEANER 1 LITER <b>\$12.80</b>
	GRAINING SAND 25 KG. <b>\$23.00</b>		BLANCHER OFFSET INK MADE IN FRANCE - 1 KG. BLACK : \$12.25 CYAN : \$15.25 MAGENTA : \$15.25 YELLOW : \$15.40		KLEENTEC OFFSET INC MADE IN KOREA - 1 KG. BLACK : \$8.25 BLUE : \$9.50 RED : \$9.50 YELLOW : \$9.75
	KURO FILM FOR IMAGESETTER 63.5cm x 60m <b>\$455.00</b>		NEWSPRINT PAPER 34-1/8" x 24-1/8" 1 REAM (480 SHEETS) <b>\$21.50</b>		NEWSPRINT PAPER 32" x 24" 1 REAM (480 SHEETS) <b>\$21.50</b>

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## Hyatt employees give gifts to kids at Guma Esperanza



Hyatt Regency Saipan officials and employees, together with Guma Esperanza staff, pose with the toys the Hyatt employees donated for this year's Toys for Tots program.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Employees at Hyatt Regency Saipan will make Christmas brighter for the children at Guma Esperanza with their toy donations for this year's Toys for Tots program.

A total of 82 wrapped gifts

for children ages 2 months to 17 years old were presented by the Hyatt staff to the CNMI's shelter for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking in a brief ceremony at the hotel lobby yesterday afternoon.

Denise Montenegro, Hyatt training manager, said in an interview that they received from

Guma Esperanza a list of the gender and ages of children at the shelter. Employees started bringing toys right after Thanksgiving, Montenegro said, with some employees donating more than one toy to ensure that all children at the shelter will receive a gift this Christmas.

"It's a great initiative

for the employees to have a chance to do something meaningful," she said.

Montenegro even involves her own children in getting and wrapping the toys every year, making them realize that there is always someone from the community who is in need and instilling in them at an early age the spirit of giving.

"Christmas is not just the season of giving but also of hope. Everybody should have hope even though times are tough. When you have hope, anything is possible," added the mother of two.

Josephine Mesta, Hyatt human resources director, thanked the generosity of all hotel personnel who participated in the annual toy drive.

"This is what Hyatt symbolizes, taking care of the community that we are a part of and giving back to them the support they have extended to us," Mesta told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said the community of Saipan should also be grateful to God that it is not experiencing the horrors and grief that Newtown, Connecticut is going through following a shooting incident that left 27 people dead.

"We hope that the children at Guma Esperanza will continue to receive love and care from our small island," added Mesta.

Shelter manager Lauri B. Ogunmoro expressed her appreciation to Hyatt Regency Saipan, which has teamed up with them for many years in support of the toy drive.

"It's our pleasure to be able to work with them and their spirit of giving for the women and children at Guma Esperanza," Ogunmoro said, adding that the toys will be distributed to the beneficiaries within the week in time for Christmas Day on Dec. 25.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

**Dec. 18, 2000**

### Survey: Saipan must ensure safety of tourists

The CNMI government must ensure that Saipan is a safe place for Japanese tourists, especially the women travelers, family group tours and senior citizens who visit the island, according to a survey conducted by a Tokyo-based marketing firm. K.K. Creative Assist was hired by the Marianas Visitors Authority to determine the CNMI's market share in Japan and evaluate the effectiveness of its Saipanda campaign. In-depth interviews were conducted among six travel agents, two airline companies and three publishers to find out their views on how to effectively sell the CNMI in Japan.

### BOE eyes school for CNMI's brightest students

Board of Education member Anthony Pellegrino has floated the idea of developing one of Saipan's public high schools into a campus exclusive to Northern Marianas' brightest and most exceptional students. Plans to set up what officials refer to as a "magnet school" was disclosed during the groundbreaking ceremony of one of the Public School System's major Capital Improvement Projects in Kobilville last Thursday. According to Mr. Pellegrino, with the anticipated opening of three additional public high schools on island within the next three years, BOE is mulling over designating one of the new campuses for CNMI's "cream of the crop."

**Dec. 18, 2001**

### Inaugural plans now being finalized

The Legislature's inauguration committee expects to finalize all preparations for the inaugural ceremony before December 28-a full two weeks before the January 14 occasion. Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano, who chairs the inauguration committee for the Senate, said that preparations for the 13th Legislature's inaugural ceremony are now underway and he expects no problems arising in the run-up to January 14. "It's all going smoothly and all the programs that the committee is coming up should be finalized before the 28th of this month. All the invitations, the ceremony and so forth have been going smoothly," said Adriano.

### Power-sharing reports surprised Kiyu

Sen. Thomas P. Villagomez expressed surprise over reports that the Senate leadership of the 13th Legislature is offering Saipan senators the chairmanship of two Senate committees but he added, though, that he would have no objections to such an arrangement. "Personally, I have no objection to that joining the Senate leadership upon their invitation," Villagomez said. He hastened to add, however, that he has not received any formal invitation from the Senate leadership yet to join them as committee chairman. Villagomez's reaction stemmed from news reports quoting Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig as saying the Senate leadership will be offering the chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Health, Education and Welfare Programs to Villagomez and the chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government and Local Affairs to Reyes.

**Dec. 18, 2002**

### NMI importers surprised by new tobacco, alcohol taxes

Since midnight Saturday, major importers of tobacco and alcohol have begun paying higher taxes for the entry of their goods, under the new tax rates outlined in Public Law 13-38, which Gov. Juan N. Babauta signed into law on December 13. The CNMI Customs Division implemented the new set of tax rates Saturday morning, a move that reportedly sowed confusion among major retailers, distributors, and importers due to a conflicting schedule of rate implementation released by lawmakers. According to customs director Joe Mafnas, the 90-day period required by the lawmakers is inconsistent with the directive that any bill that is signed into law takes effect upon the approval of the governor.

### Babauta: No qualms about CUC-CDA agreement laws

Gov. Juan N. Babauta said he favors the enactment of two bills relating to the settlement agreement between the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Commonwealth Development Authority. "I was in [Washington] D.C. when the deadline lapsed but if I were here, I'd probably have signed the bills into law to put an end to this dispute," Babauta said. Although lacking the signature of the Governor, the two bills that put into effect the settlement terms for the over \$103 million debt of the CUC to the development authority turned into laws last week due to the failure of the Governor's Office to act on them within the statutory period of 40 days.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation  
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# PUBLIC NOTICE

**The staff and management of OVR will hold its ANNUAL WELLNESS & REHABILITATION DAY on Friday, December 21, 2012 from 7:30 am – 4:30 pm.**

**As a result of this planned activity, the offices will be closed. Your understanding will be highly appreciated.**

**VOICE: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536  
TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net**

**This publication was paid for with federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).**

# Blue Bay Petroleum donates \$10K to Palau typhoon relief

Blue Bay Petroleum, Inc. donated \$10,000 to support relief efforts for the victims of super typhoon Bopha, which hit Palau on the eve of Dec. 3.

The powerful super typhoon, packing winds of over 130mph, barreled through Palau and caused a country-wide blackout, while leaving a trail of damage and destruction that has left many families homeless or displaced, damages roads, while disrupting communication and broadcast capabilities.

Areas that were hardest hit were the eastern Babedao states of Ngaraard, Ngiwal, Melekeok, and Ngchesar. Also devastated were the southern states of Peleliu and Angaur.

"While government is doing what it can, we believe that it is our obligation, as a member of the private sector, to reach out to the community in this time of need," said Ralph Moses, Blue Bay station manager.

Moses further added, "In a crisis such as this where many

homes were lost and lives changed forever, there is no question, we must all come together to help the victims of this catastrophe. Palau is Blue Bay's home, and as a member of the business community, being able to help out is important to us. This is the least we can do."

Blue Bay Petroleum, Inc. is the authorized distributor of Mobil petroleum products in Palau. It operates 10 service stations, including aircraft refueling at the Palau International Airport. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In the check presentation are, from left, Bernadette Soto (Blue Bay comptroller), Anhel Salii (Blue Bay terminal manager), Ralph Moses (Blue Bay station manager), Patrick Tellei (PCC president and Bopha relief coordinator), Vickie Lui (Blue Bay aviation manager), and Warren Umetaro (chief of staff of Vice President Mariru).



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



## INVITATION TO BID

ITB13-GOV-056

### Tinian Health Center Medical Equipment

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Purchase of Medical Equipment for the Tinian Health Center.

The project package will be available Thursday, December 20, 2012 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the package at the CIP Office on Capitol Hill. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 11, 2013 to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB13-GOV-056". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, January 24, 2013. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time January 24, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 24, 2013 and must be received no later than January 31, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, January 31, 2013. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will open at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on January 24, 2013.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P & S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable asset are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Government Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director  
Procurement and Supply, DOF



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- San Antonio Elementary School
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- Cha Cha Junior High School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- Saipan SDA School
- WSR Elementary School

- Garapan Elementary School
- Grace Christian Academy

- Hopwood Junior High School
- Marianas High School

- Garapan Elementary School
- Marianas High School

- Tanapag Elementary School
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# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 293

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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## EDITORIAL

### Endgame in Syria

**N**ow that the end of the Assad regime in Syria is a foregone conclusion, the Obama administration is facing the possibility of a nightmare scenario that makes last year's unwinding of Libya look easy to manage by comparison. Syria is both more explosive and more complicated, less likely to hold together when the government collapses and far more dangerous to the region because of its location at the heart of the Middle East.

The downfall will be messy, but the United States and its allies have options that can limit the collateral damage and lay the groundwork for a future that would give Syria's people reason to hope for something better than what they had under Assad.

The first step is to have in place a unified opposition that can provide transitional leadership until Syrians are able to decide for themselves what they want by way of a democratic election.

The only bright spot so far is that U.S. and European leaders have managed to forge such a group, the Syrian Opposition Council, which won recognition on Wednesday from 100 countries, further isolating the Assad regime.

It may be too late for the group to broker a political settlement, given all the blood that's been spilled—at least 40,000 dead—and Assad's intransigence. But the existence of this civilian body is indispensable. Whether it can hold together for long is open to question, but it serves both as a needed counterweight to the anti-Assad forces with weapons and as a vehicle to dispense U.S. and European aid and resources within the country and thus gain legitimacy in the eyes of Syrians.

Another critical move is to isolate and diminish the influence of Islamist extremists who have played an important role in the struggle to topple the government. The administration took an important step in this direction this week by labeling the so-called Nusra Front a branch of al-Qaida in Iraq, a terrorist group.

The risk of alienating an important segment of the rebels must be balanced against the greater need to ensure that nationalist, democratic forces emerge victorious in a post-Assad Syria.

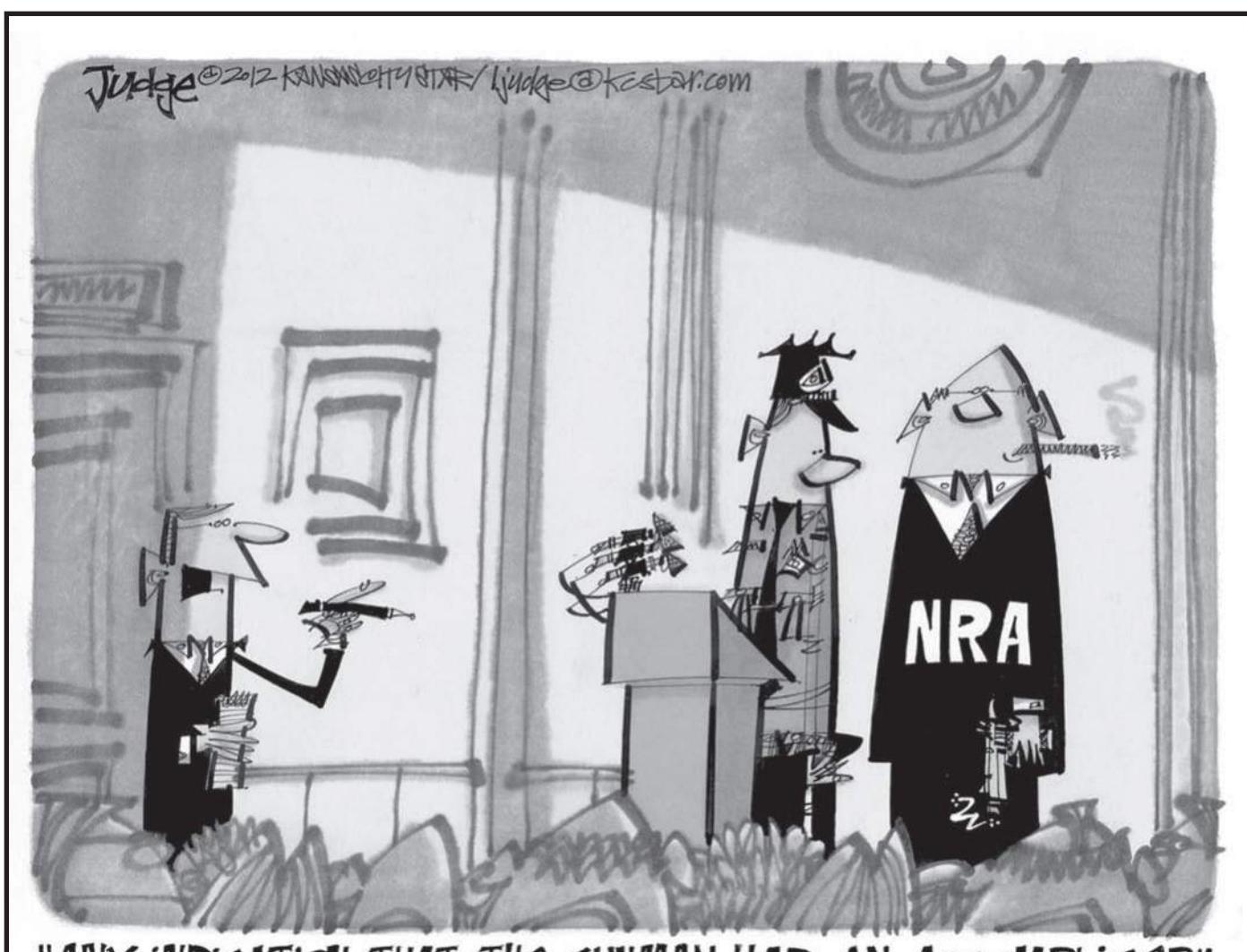
Like it or not, the United States must get more involved in the nuts-and-bolts of the military endgame, even supplying weapons if necessary. The task has been outsourced to allies like Saudi Arabia because of U.S. fears that weapons would fall into the wrong hands.

But now that a political solution seems practically impossible, a hands-off approach runs the risk of having the United States seen as unserious. It would be less likely to influence the military forces that will have a say in running Syria in the future.

Supplying weapons to mainstream forces and secular rebels also gives these forces equal weight with the jihadist fighters armed by others.

The last thing the United States should do in Syria is put boots on the ground. That's why the Obama administration must get more deeply involved to influence the outcome and avoid a victory by extremist factions. There are pitfalls on all sides, but it's time to stop standing on the sidelines.

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"ANY INDICATION THAT THE GUNMAN HAD AN ACCOMPLICE?"

### My Nippon-Zhongguo connection

**H**ad my first child been a boy, he would have had the unhappy name of Kenichi Zhou Enlai! Just imagine the ribbing he would have gotten in the schoolyard. My wife and I were children of the '60s, forgiving as hell. I "forgave" Japanese atrocities committed in the Philippines during WWII. *Kenichi* means first healthy child in Nihongo.

I was also a cheerleader to Mao Zedong's alter ego, Zhou Enlai, the consummate diplomat, and nemesis of Zhongguo's Gang of Four led by Mao's actress wife Jiang Qing. My first child was born a year after the historic visit of Richard Nixon to China in 1972, set up by the Kissinger-Zhou Enlai tandem. Ergo, Zhou Enlai would have joined the family's litany of names since Mao Zedong would have been too hard to handle in my wife's conservative family, and I would have taken exception to a German addition to my lineage.

Happily, we had a girl. With her mom of Welsh-Scot-English-German Midwest U.S. extraction, and ourself, a Sino-Indo-Malay-cum-a-dab-of-Iberian concoction, Manila-born Kristina grew up to furl a school banner that declared: Mongrels of the World, Unite!

I grew up in an area that still pronounced Yamashita's name with bloodcurdling sound. Rocks rained on our house roof on New Year '65 when I brought home a Japanese student from a Youth Assembly I attended in Dumaguete City the previous week. That was a good 20 years after the famed Nippon general's march north of Manila through our valley.

I would later find out that a Japanese officer warned my Dad that he was on the list of those to be apprehended by the Kempeitai. He was suspected of cutting the stencil and running a mimeo machine for the underground's news rag. He was guilty as charged. Had he been apprehended, I might have been born an orphan. My mother was heavy with child while "we" were on the run.

I am no apologist for Japan. They have their ample share of the blame game from WWII. Their atrocities were characteristic of every occupying imperial force in the last five centuries, born out of a sense of superiority nurtured and sustained by a hierarchical social structure that ordered humanity from the heavenly mandate to the lowly peon.

One of my Dad's older brothers was a schoolteacher before the Rising Sun's banner was unfurled over the archipelago, a nationalist noncompliant to the wishes of the American forces who saw it their task to husband the birth of an independent nation through a Commonwealth heavily tilted to the advantage of U.S. commerce. He ended up being a translator to Nippon's occupying forces, thus seen as a collaborator to the regime. American-led guerrillas quartered him at the public square with four carabaos heading separately to the four winds, a warning to Filipinos who cooperated with Nippon.

During the Vietnam War, records of American forces' earlier

By JAIME VERGARA  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara ([jrvergarajr2031@aol.com](mailto:jrvergarajr2031@aol.com)) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



behavior in the Philippines, particularly in Samar, came to light. Atrocities did not start in Vietnam by drug-crazed exceptions. They were abundantly on display by the flannel-garbed Indian fighters who came to tropical Philippines, already seasoned in leaving behind veils and vales of tears in their paths through native territories, as real estate hungry easterners of European descent moved westward-ho!

Forgiveness came as a strong virtue in our upbringing. As an adult, we came to realize that this was more than just ignoring other's unacceptable behavior. It is acknowledging the objective reality that whatever occurred in the past is done. Finis. There is no way of undoing it; one can, however, learn a lesson from it and decide whether one continues with established patterns or takes on a different course.

We now know that humanity is wired to behave according to the images that informed its growth, and therefore feels comfortable when it automatically just follows the easy path of previous behavior. Education's task is to provide alternative paths.

My Chinese Oral English students introduce themselves at the beginning of the semester, and as a model, I introduce myself first with some guidelines that they then use for their own intro. One of my lines in response to the question of "what makes me happy" is an echo of Star Trek, which I rephrased as "going someplace I had not been previously, and doing something I had not done before."

There is a new context abroad, surprisingly a germ already implanted by those who devised the remembrances of this season, from the progeny of *Millat Ibrahim*, whether it be the Hanukkah/Menorah of the Torah story, the manger Christ-child at Yuletide, the end of Muharram in Islam, or the secular drumbeats of African *matunda ya kwanza*, a celebration of the fruits of the harvest, where humanity affirms the path it hath already trod, but proceed to move someplace it had not previously been, and do something it had not done before. In my old book, that was labeled "forgiveness", or, if I may be allowed a play on words, being "given for" the future.

My Nippon-Zhongguo connection is grounded in the past, but moves unencumbered and freely into the future. Happy holidays!

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Five people to cross off your holiday list

**T**he secret to life is that there is no secret. In heaven they ask you to explain all the times you missed an opportunity to find joy.

There is, however, a secret to surviving the holidays, although it has very little to do with heavenly matters.

It has to do with avoiding five types of people who suck joy out of a room the way air gets sucked out of a pressurized cabin in "Snakes on a Plane." You need to protect yourself when you're near these people; they are seasonal vampires.

They don't come out after dark, they come out after Black Friday.

## America's First Christmas

By RICH LOWRY

King Features Synd., Inc.



Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

**G**en. George Washington's army retreated from New York in ignominy in November 1776. As it moved through New Jersey, Lt. James Monroe, the future president, stood by the road and counted the troops: 3,000 left from an original force of 30,000.

In December 1776, the future of America hung on the fate of a bedraggled army barely a step ahead of annihilation.

The Americans confronted about two-thirds of the strength of the British army, and half its navy, not to mention thousands of German mercenaries. The defense of New York was barely worthy of the name. When British troops crossed into Manhattan at Kips Bay, the Americans ran. Washington reportedly exclaimed in despair, "Are these the men with which I am to defend America?"

Later, from the New Jersey Palisades, he watched as the British took Fort Washington across the Hudson, held by 3,000 American troops, and put surrendering Americans to the sword. According to one account, Washington turned away and wept "with the tenderness of a child."

British strategy depended on shattering American faith in the Continental Army and reconciling the rebellious colonies to the Crown. As the Americans fled to the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River, the British occupied New Jersey and offered an amnesty to anyone declaring his loyalty. They had thousands of takers, including one signer of the Declaration of Independence.

With expiring enlistments about to reduce his army further, Washington decided on a scheme to cross the Delaware on Christmas and surprise the Hessian garrison in Trenton. "If the raid backfired," Washington biographer Ron Chernow writes, "the war was likely over and he would be captured and killed."

Behind schedule, Washington's main force of 2,400 started crossing the river that night. Yes, most of them were standing up in flat-bottomed boats. Yes, there were ice floes. It wasn't until 4 a.m. that all the men were across the river. They had 9 miles still to march to Trenton in a driving storm and no chance of making it before daybreak. Washington considered calling it off, but he had already come too far.

Arriving at Trenton at 8 a.m., his spirited troops seemed "to vie with the other in pressing forward," he wrote afterward. They surprised the Hessians, who didn't expect an attack in such weather. The battle ended quickly—22 Hessians killed, 83 seriously wounded and 900 captured, to two American combat deaths.

"It may be doubted whether so small a number of men ever employed so short a space of time with greater and more lasting effects upon the history of the world," British historian George Trevelyan wrote.

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David Hackett Fischer sees in the American resurgence after our fortunes were at their lowest a reassuring aspect of our national character in this season of discontent: We respond when pressed. Dr. Benjamin Rush, a great supporter of the American cause, wrote: "Our republics cannot exist long in prosperity. We require adversity and appear to possess most of the republican spirit when most depressed." May it still be so.

They drain dry life's emotional balance until all that's left are dregs of good cheer and a bunch of cranky crumbs.

Let's identify them so that we're safe this season.

**Type 1: The Vain Man.** There are now guys asking, "Does this Santa suit make me look fat?" They're asking for hair plugs and eye lifts from Santa. These guys are trying to pick up cute elves. They think they don't need Santa's bifocals to read gift lists. They think they are the prize. They are wrong.

**Type 2: The Sentimental Lady.** A woman who makes her daughter's ice skates into earrings is a woman who needs to unclasp her fist from the throat of The Ghost of Christmas Past. This is a person who launches into speeches about how happy her family was before the: a) divorce; b) complete failure of the culture to value important traditions such as the lighting of multiple scented candles to eclipse the smell of expired potpourri; c) her children's marriages to heathens, foreigners or people whose families refuse to acknowledge that, because they selfishly choose to live out of state, they have no right to claim time with the little ones between Halloween and Arbor Day.

**Type 3: The Nut-Avoider.** Don't write letters to the editor; I'm not talking about you—or, at least, about only you. I have allergies and half my family is vegan, so I know what it's like to make compromises. At any gathering in my home, there are peanut-avoiders, meat-avoiders, salt-avoiders, alcohol-avoiders, fructose-avoiders, gluten-avoiders and dairy-avoiders. But anybody with a sanctimonious inability to be within spitting distance of those who mate and vote—let alone eat and drink—differently from themselves should not expect to sit at the table with others unless they compromise. I have profound physical reactions during meals that I must contain. I cannot, for example, sit next to someone who brings an electronic device to a table without moving my arms so wildly that the device smashes to the floor. If I can manage, so can the vegan sodium-free Wiccan friend who's cozied up to

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Gun violence

While watching the morning news on CNN last Friday, an individual was being interviewed and breaking news came up. The anchorman noted that there was a shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, Connecticut and there is no further information. He later corrected himself, that it is not Newton but Newtown. The report brought back memories of the Cleveland Elementary Massacre in Stockton, California in 1989. The thought of having a gunman in an elementary school was mind twisting and we were hoping that the report was an error. But as we switched to other channels, the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting was being broadcast in front of our very eyes.

Everyone is talking about gun reform in the United States. The Oregon (mall), Colorado (high school and movie theater), New York (Long Island railroad) and the Wisconsin (Sikh temple) shooting were the topic of the day. The president of the United States of America appeared on television and he was emotional for what had happened in Newtown. Our heart cried out as majority of the Sandy Hook victims were 6 years old. Who on earth would do such a thing to innocent souls? It is time for us as a society to start reflecting on issues affecting us as a whole. Do we want to make changes for the sake of our guaranteed rights under the U.S. Constitution and its amendments? Do we want to make changes to our learned behavior from our forefathers and elders? How do we define right from wrong in our island culture? In some states, one may carry a pistol on his waist within the view of the community, but doing such a thing in another state or territory will be your ticket to the federal pen.

The legal firearms or caliber in the Mariana Isle are .410 shotguns and any rifle within .22 caliber (.220 to .229). The strict gun control in the CNMI has not prevented individuals from owning higher caliber firearms. Based on our research on previous illegal firearms that were confiscated by the CNMI government in the past, the CNMI has more illegal firearms per capita than a small city in the state of California. Based on such assumption, gun-related homicides in the CNMI are unheard of in comparison to the city of Stockton, California. In our opinion, our island familial structure is the answer to such predicament.

The notion that amending our right to bear arms will be the solution to stop mass shootings in the country is the most unfounded way of thinking. Thousands of firearms have been sold in the past,

**By GINA BARRECA**

The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. She can be reached through her website at <http://www.ginabarreca.com>.



the Pentecostal bacon lover. No, they cannot use their electronic devices to play games in order to bond.

**Type 4: The Terrifyingly Happy.** These folks send cards with pictures of their adorable offspring but without supplying either a return address or their own identities, thereby remaining as anonymous as those under witness protection. These are the families who name their kids after household objects or Norse gods. Their cards read "Happy Holidays from All of Us! Here are the kids—Ooegrud, Kickstand, Beret and baby Nimmermehr!" You have no idea who they are. However, such families are usually fully occupied by taking pictures of each other. The danger of seeing them in the flesh is low.

**Type 5: The Competitive Do-Gooder.** This person wields every random act of kindness as a bludgeon. If you mention you donated canned goods to the soup kitchen, she'll explain how last year she made and served stew. If you boast about giving money to the local animal shelter, she'll trot out her two three-legged dogs and her deaf ferret. So you end up putting the soup kitchen and shelter in your will. You then discover she's already done that. Ha, ha! You lose!

Yet because everybody else wins, it's not real defeat.

What you found instead is an opportunity for joy. Laughter brings us a little closer to heaven—or, at the very least, closer to each other. And that's what the holidays are for, after all.

the present, and in the future throughout the United States legally and many of them will end up in the streets of America (illegally). The mentality of not-in-my-backyard is catching up in our society, because gun violence in the past usually happened within low-income neighborhoods. The problem of gun violence in our society is here to stay and no amount of legislation can stop such epidemic. Education, awareness, prevention and familial structure within our society are the key to minimize future shooting victims in our community.

**Segundo Castro**

Fresno, Calif.

## Thank you

As I prepare to exit the Tinian Senior Citizen Center as per my personnel action from Personnel Office, where my employment is not to exceed Jan. 21, 2013 (provisional appointment), I would like to leave a strong message to the leaders and people of Tinian. I would like to thank everyone for the destructive criticisms leveled against me during my short time at the Tinian Senior Citizens Center. For all the allegations raised against me, I say "thank you and may God bless you all."

To the political spectators and participants inside the arena, I say "Tinian can never move forward to brand newness and fair distribution of opportunities under continuous dirty and deadly sharp stones." I've had the experience to get hit by many of them. But my body and soul has managed to survive considering the many injuries and blood flowing down all over my body. My total rejection at the Tinian Senior Citizens Center has taught me a final lesson to learn in the remaining years of my life. I just have to accept the many realities and expectations of the people of Tinian. I must continue with my normal life after my departure from employment and never again return to seek employment.

To the leaders of Tinian, I say "thank you for your oppositional stance against my appointment at the center." In as much as I would have wanted to improve the Aging Center, I just couldn't do it within the limited time frame of my employment. Even if given the opportunity that am the most qualified to run and manage the Tinian Senior Citizens Center, I will deny such offer once and for all. Period.

**Martin M. Sakisat**

San Jose, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times.
▲ 89° ▼ 76°	▲ 89° ▼ 76°	▲ 89° ▼ 76°	▲ 89° ▼ 76°	▲ 89° ▼ 76°

## Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 80
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 81

## Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 71 ▼ 67
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 24 ▼ 13
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 56
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 71
London	Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 41
Los Angeles	Showers	▲ 58 ▼ 42
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 61
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 63
New York	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 37
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 36
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 35
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 40 ▼ 25
Rome	Sunny	▲ 52 ▼ 38
Salem	Showers	▲ 40 ▼ 37
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 53 ▼ 41
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 27 ▼ 17
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 33
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 41

## Tides

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:37 AM	5:50 PM	Today	10:37 AM	10:48 PM
Wednesday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM	Wednesday	11:20 AM	11:40 PM
Thursday	6:38 AM	5:51 PM	Thursday	12:00 AM	
Friday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM	Friday	12:39 PM	12:30 AM
Saturday	6:39 AM	5:52 PM	Saturday	1:19 PM	1:20 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DEC. 14, 2012

DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>			<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>		
UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7			UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7		
UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5			UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily		
UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily			UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7		
UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7		
UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily			UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily		
UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily			UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily		
UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily					
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b>			<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b>		
DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily			DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily		
DL297 4:25pm 7:20pm Daily			DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily		
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b>			<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b>		
OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 6, 7			OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 5, 6		
OZ608 3:30am 6:40am 3			OZ607 9:35pm 2:25am+1 2		
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b>			<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>		
OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1			OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily		
OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7		
OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily			OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b>			<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b>		
3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7		
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b>			<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b>		
MU7108 4:05am 5:55am 1, 3, 5			MU7107 6:30pm 1:50am+1 2, 4, 7		

# Koblerville school, Mount Carmel top caroling contest



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Koblerville Elementary School students perform at the Marianas Caroling Contest held at Paseo de Marianas on Dec. 15.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID

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REPORTER

Koblerville Elementary School and Mount Carmel high school students were adjudged winners in their respective categories at the 11th Annual Christmas in the Marianas Caroling Contest held at Paseo de Marianas on Dec. 15.

The Home of the Hugging Umang accumulated 72 points from the judges with their yuletide carols in various languages accompanied by the school band and Santa Claus, beating other participating schools in the elementary division for the fourth consecutive year.

Dressed in red shirts and jeans for boys and white shirts and red skirts for girls, about 30 Koblerville students ranging from kindergarten to sixth grade took part in the annual competition under the coaching of Glee Club coordinator Karen Alla, according to school principal Rizalina Purugganan.

"From the choreography and voices to their presentation and costumes, the students did an excellent job. We're very proud of them," she said in an interview after the announcement of winners.

Koblerville Elementary School took home \$1,000 and Purugganan said the money will be used to support the Glee Club's activities, including next year's caroling contest and in the upcoming Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam.

Other winners in the elementary division were Dandan Elementary School, second place, \$700; Mount Carmel School, third place, \$500; and Oleai Elementary School, fourth place, \$400. Agape Christian School and Green Meadows also took part in the event and received consolation prizes.

Mount Carmel School, which

joined the competition for the first time this year, also reigned in the high school division, winning \$750 after defeating their only challenger with their skit and song number, *All I Want for Christmas Is You*.

School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero said over 30 elementary students and some

24 high school students were involved in the contest, which took about a month to prepare. The competition also served as a venue for the first public performance of Mount Carmel's drum band, he added.

"I'm very proud of our students. They worked hard. It's a great Christmas gift for our

school," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

He also thanked the Marianas Visitors Authority, Team PDI, Marianas Walking Association, and PDM Promoters, Inc.—collectively known as Friends of Paseo de Marianas—for hosting the event.

Kagman High School, mean-



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while, received applause from the audiences after highlighting the need to have families spend quality time during the holiday season. They won \$600.

The participants were evaluated by a panel of judges composed of local musician Gus Kaipat, retired educator Joe Limes, Marianas Walking Association's Hiroko Tenorio, KKMP's Gary Sword, and Power 99's Tony Joe.

Kaipat, in a separate interview, said the annual competition gets more and more exciting every year. He expressed hope that other elements will be added in next year's contest, such as original compositions.

According to Kaipat, events

like the Christmas in the Marianas contests help promote the talents of the children to the island's visitors.

"We should have more of these events so we can show the world that we have so many talents out here. That's the best way to promote our ancestral music and that's how we put ourselves in the map," he said.

Saturday's event kicked off with a health walk led by Marianas Walking Association. About 50 individuals took part in the walk that began from the Koban or police station at Paseo de Marianas then to Beach Road up to the old Japanese tank by the Quartermaster Road and back.

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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, ] CIVIL ACTION  
Plaintiff, ] NO. 02-0408

-v- ] FOURTH  
ANGELINA A. ] AMENDED  
MANGLONA, ] NOTICE  
Defendant. ] OF SALE

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MD. JAHANGIR ALAM	Petitioner,	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0544
vs.		
LANGU-LINORE NORES,	Respondent.	

#### SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:  
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 504812, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 18, 2013, at the hour of 12:00 noon, at the Superior Court, Sinapalo Village, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 7th day of December, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

/s/ Clerk of Court

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# Business

## Millions face higher taxes real soon without fix

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Millions of families and businesses will get hit by big tax increases a lot sooner than many realize if Congress and the White House don't agree on a plan to skirt the year-end fiscal cliff of higher tax rates and big government spending cuts.

In fact, they already have.

More than 70 tax breaks enjoyed by individuals and businesses expired at the end of 2011. If Congress doesn't extend them retroactively back to the beginning of this year, a typical middle-class family could face a \$4,000 tax increase when it files its 2012 return in the spring, according to an analysis by H&R Block, the tax preparing giant.

At the same time, businesses could lose dozens of tax breaks they have enjoyed for years, including generous credits for investing in research and development, write-offs for restaurants and retail stores that expand or upgrade, and tax breaks for financial companies with overseas subsidiaries.

Even if Congress does act, last-minute changes to federal tax laws could make it difficult for taxpayers to figure out their 2012 tax bills.

"We're really expecting this upcoming tax season to be one of the more challenging ones on record," said Kathy Pickering, executive director of The Tax Institute at H&R Block. "For your 2012 returns there's so much confusion about what will be impacted."

Much of Washington is consumed by negotiations over how to address automatic tax increases scheduled to take effect next year. That's when tax cuts first enacted under President George W. Bush, and ex-



In this Dec. 10, 2012 file photo, fog obscures the Capitol dome on Capitol Hill in Washington. Big tax increases will hit millions of families and businesses a lot sooner than many realize if Congress and the White House don't agree on a plan to avoid the year-end fiscal cliff of automatic tax increases and government spending cuts.

tended under President Barack Obama, are scheduled to expire. A temporary reduction in the Social Security payroll tax is set to vanish as well.

Obama wants to let the Bush-era tax cuts expire on incomes above \$200,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for married couples, while extending the tax cuts for people making less.

House Speaker John Boehner and other Republicans have said they are open to more tax revenue through reducing or eliminating unspecified tax breaks. But Boehner, R-Ohio, late last week moved toward

the president's position, proposing raising top rates for people earning more than \$1 million in exchange for deeper spending cuts, particularly in health care and other mandatory spending programs.

Obama has not accepted that offer, according to people familiar with the talks, but Boehner's offer suggests that the negotiations are being renewed after appearing stalled just days ago.

Lost in the debate is a big package of tax breaks that already expired for 2012. Lawmakers in both parties say they three-and-a-half-year low of 7.4 percent in the latest quarter but weak November trade data suggested the rebound might be faltering.

The World Bank and other analysts say Beijing needs to curb dominant state companies and promote service industries and consumer spending to keep incomes rising.

They say without prompt action, growth might slow abruptly, leaving China stuck at middle-income levels.

Possible reforms face potential opposition from state companies that might see their privileges diminished and have influential allies in the party.

"If China does not change its strategy, it risks falling into the 'middle income trap,'" Robert Zoellick, former World Bank president, said in a speech at a Beijing business conference last week.



expect those tax cuts to be addressed in any deal to avoid the "fiscal cliff." But they don't want to deal with them separately because that would reduce pressure to reach a broader budget agreement.

The biggest tax increase facing individuals for this year is the alternative minimum tax, or AMT. The tax was first enacted in 1969 to ensure that wealthy people can't use tax breaks to avoid paying any federal taxes. The AMT, however, was never adjusted for inflation, so Congress routinely does that to keep it from imposing hefty tax increases on millions of middle-income families.

Congress last adjusted the AMT in 2010, and about 4 million taxpayers paid it 2011. Without a new adjustment for the 2012 tax year, the AMT would reach an additional 28 million taxpayers, increasing their tax bill by an average of \$3,700.

The tax would affect individuals making more than \$33,750 and married couples making more than \$45,000, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

### Movement seen in 'fiscal cliff' talks

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Big differences remain, but there is finally movement in long-stalled talks on avoiding the "fiscal cliff."

House Speaker John Boehner is offering \$1 trillion in higher tax revenue over 10 years and an increase in the top tax rate on people making more than \$1 million a year. He's also offering a large enough extension in the government's borrowing cap to fund the government for one year before the issue must be revisited—conditioned on Obama agreeing to the \$1 trillion in cuts. The offer, made Friday after a long impasse between Boehner, R-Ohio, and President Barack Obama, calls for about \$450 billion in revenue from increasing the top rate on million-dollar-plus income from 35 percent to the Clinton-

era rate of 39.6 percent.

The additional revenue would be collected through a rewrite of the tax code next year and by slowing the inflation adjustments made to tax brackets.

In return, Boehner is asking for \$1 trillion in spending cuts from government benefit programs like Medicare. Those cuts would defer most of a painful set of across-the-board spending cuts set to slash many domestic programs and the Pentagon budget by 8-9 percent, starting in January.

Boehner also continues to press for a less generous inflation adjustment for Social Security benefits, a move endorsed by many budget hawks. Obama and Democrats on last year's deficit "supercommittee" endorsed the idea in offers made last year, but they're more reluctant now.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Diet Pepsi quietly changes sweetener

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Diet Pepsi is quietly changing its sweetener ahead of a major rebranding of the soft drink set for next month. The change comes as PepsiCo Inc. looks to reinvigorate its namesake brands after losing market share to Coca-Cola Co. in recent years. Cans of Diet Pepsi around the country now list a mix of two artificial sweeteners, a pairing that is commonly found in newer diet

sodas. Previously, Diet Pepsi used only aspartame, which is sensitive to heat and breaks down more easily.

#### Massive Napa do-over prompts grape plant shortage

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—A massive replanting in Napa Valley of some of the world's priciest vineyards is so widespread a critical shortage of grapevine root stock has developed. Giant suppliers such as Sunridge

Nurseries in Bakersfield are taking orders for 2014 and beyond. The shortage is due to a trifecta of developments. Aging cabernet vines planted after the deadly phylloxera (fil-OX-er-uh) outbreak across Napa Valley in the 1980s are due to be replaced. The reviving economy has created a surge in demand for premium grapes. And some growers are looking for clones and varieties better suited for their microclimates. Mondavi alone is planting 1.5 million new vines.

## Chinese leaders promise reform, spending if needed

**BEIJING** (AP)—China's new Communist Party leaders are promising reforms aimed at reducing reliance on exports and more spending if needed to prop up a shaky economic recovery.

In the first statement of their economic goals since taking power in November, the new party leaders pledged continuity Sunday with long-term plans aimed at nurturing self-sustaining growth and raising incomes. There was no indication of plans for major changes or new stimulus.

They promised to support domestic consumption, the growth of small businesses that generate jobs and more migration by rural residents into expanding cities to find better-paid jobs.

The new party general secretary, Xi Jinping, and other leaders are under pressure to overhaul an economic model based

# Nation

## Conn. gunman had hundreds of rounds of ammunition

**NEWTOWN, Conn.** (AP)—

The gunman in the Connecticut shooting rampage was carrying an arsenal of hundreds of rounds of especially deadly ammunition—enough to kill just about every student in the school if given enough time, authorities said Sunday, raising the chilling possibility that the bloodbath

could have been far worse.

Adam Lanza shot himself in the head just as he heard police drawing near to the classroom where he was slaughtering helpless children, but he had more ammunition at the ready in the form of multiple, high-capacity clips each capable of holding 30 bullets.

### High court fight looms over right to carry a gun

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The next big issue in the national debate over guns—whether people have a right to be armed in public—is moving closer to Supreme Court review.

A provocative ruling by a panel of federal appeals court judges in Chicago struck down the only statewide ban on carrying concealed weapons, in Illinois. The ruling is somewhat at odds with those of other federal courts that have largely upheld state and local gun laws, including restrictions on concealed weapons, since the Supreme Court's landmark ruling declaring that people have a right to have a gun for self-defense.

In, 2008, the court voted 5-4 in District of Columbia v. Heller to strike down Washington's ban on handgun ownership and focused mainly on the right to defend one's own home. The court left for another day how broadly the Second Amendment may protect gun rights in other settings.

Legal scholars say the competing appellate rulings mean that day is drawing near for a new high court case on gun rights.

The appeals court ruling in

Chicago came early in a week that ended with the mass shooting in Connecticut that left 28 people dead, including 20 children at an elementary school and the presumed gunman.

Laurie Levenson, a professor at the Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, said that along with thorny legal issues, "we have the overlay of these tragedies hitting us on a somewhat regular basis."

The author of a book that traces the battle over gun control in the U.S. said he thinks Supreme Court intervention is likely in the short-term. "Since the Heller case, the next great question for the Supreme Court to decide was whether there is a right to carry guns in public," said UCLA law professor Adam Winkler, whose book "Gunfight" was published last year.

Roughly 40 states make it easy for people to carry a gun in public. But in California, New York and a few other states, local and state regulations make it difficult if not impossible to get a license to carry a weapon. Illinois and the District of Columbia have been the only places to refuse to allow people to be armed in public.

With so much grieving left to do, many of Newtown's 27,000 people wondered whether life could ever return to normal. And as the workweek was set to begin, parents weighed whether to send their own children back

to school.

Gov. Dannel Malloy said the shooter decided to kill himself when he heard police closing in about 10 minutes into the attack. "We surmise that it was during the second classroom episode that he heard responders coming and apparently at that decided to take his own life," Malloy said on ABC's "This Week."

Police said they found hundreds of unused bullets at the school, which enrolled about 450 students in kindergarten through fourth grade.

"There was a lot of ammo, a lot of clips," said state police Lt. Paul Vance. "Certainly a lot of lives were potentially saved."

The chief medical examiner has said the ammunition was the type designed to break up inside a victim's body and inflict the maximum amount of damage, tearing apart bone and tissue.

By late afternoon, President Barack Obama arrived to con-

sole families and speak at a vigil in memory of the 26 teachers and schoolchildren who were killed in the second-deadliest school shooting in U.S. history.

Newtown officials couldn't say whether Sandy Hook Elementary School would ever reopen. The school district was considering sending surviving students to an empty school in nearby Monroe. But for many parents, it was much too soon to contemplate resuming school-day routines.

### Another sorrowful trip for Obama to grieving town

**NEWTOWN, Conn.** (AP)—For President Barack Obama, it was another sorrowful visit to another grieving community full of broken hearts from unimaginable violence.

The spot, this time, was Newtown, Conn., where on Friday a man opened fire inside Sandy Hook Elementary School. The toll: 26 dead, including 20 boys and girls just 6 or 7 years old.

The president met privately Sunday afternoon at Newtown High School, about a mile and a half from Sandy Hook Elementary, with families of the victims and with emergency personnel who responded to the shootings.

In the evening, he was to speak at an interfaith vigil. As the auditorium began to fill, people wore looks of disbelief. Many parents came with their children, some of the boys and girls holding teddy bears and other stuffed toys. The black stage was spare, with just an American flag, a Connecticut flag and a lectern bearing the

presidential seal.

"We're halfway between grief and hope," said Curt Brantl, whose fourth-grade daughter was in the library of the elementary school when the shootings occurred. She was not harmed.

Obama was addressing not only the residents of Newtown, but also a stunned nation.

A White House official said Obama is the primary author of his speech and edited his remarks on the flight to Connecticut with presidential speechwriter Cody Keenan.

Keenan helped Obama write his speech last year following the shootings in Tucson, Ariz., that left six dead and 13 wounded, including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, outside a grocery store.

In November 2009, Obama traveled to Fort Hood, Texas, to speak at the memorial service for 13 service members who were killed on the post by another soldier.

"We have to come together and take meaningful action to prevent more tragedies like this. Regardless of the politics," Obama said in his broadcast remarks.

After the Colorado shooting in July, the White House made clear that Obama would not propose new gun restrictions in an election year and said he favored better enforcement of existing laws.



Mourners gather for a candlelight vigil at Ram's Pasture to remember shooting victims, Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012 in Newtown, Conn. A gunman walked into Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown Friday and opened fire, killing 26 people, including 20 children.

### Schools around US increase security after massacre

**MIAMI** (AP)—Jessica Kornfeld sat down with her son and daughter after school on Friday and shared with them the unthinkable, horrific news out of Connecticut: Someone had stormed into an elementary school and killed children nearly their same age.

"They're just babies," her 10-year-old son said. "What could they have done?"

Kornfeld assured him the victims had done nothing wrong, and that the shootings didn't make sense to anybody. She reminded her children that they were with her, and safe.

"But it could have been us," her son replied.

School administrators across the nation have pledged to add police patrols, review security plans and make guidance counselors available in their districts as students return to classes Monday for the first time since the mass-

acre at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

And yet, it is pretty near im-

possible for parents not to be anxious and apprehensive.

"For them, you need to pre-

tend that you're OK," said Kornfeld, of Pinecrest, Fla., a vil-

lage in Miami-Dade County.

"But it's scary."

Teachers shared their con-

cerns and braced themselves

for what they would face in the

classroom Monday.

"It's going to be a tough

day," said Richard Cantlupe,

an American history teacher at

Westglades Middle School in

Parkland, Fla. "This was like

our 9/11 for school teachers."

Cantlupe said he will tell his students that his number one job is to keep them safe, and that like the teachers in Connecticut, he would do anything to make sure they stay out of harm's way. He is also beginning to

# Asia

## After landslide, Abe says Japan has difficult road

**TOKYO** (AP)—After leading his conservative party to a landslide victory that will bring it back to power after a three-year hiatus, Shinzo Abe stressed Monday that the road ahead will not be easy as he tries to revive Japan's sputtering economy and bolster its national security amid deteriorating relations with China.

The Liberal Democratic Party, which led Japan for most of the post-World War II era until it was dumped as the economy fizzled in 2009, won 294 seats in the 480-seat lower house of parliament in Sunday's nationwide elections, according to media reports. Official results were expected later Monday.

With the elections over, a vote among the members of parliament to install the new prime minister is expected as soon as Dec. 25. Abe, who was prime minister from 2006-2007, is almost certain of winning that vote because the LDP now holds the majority in the lower house.

"We won more seats than even we expected," Abe, 58, said Monday. "We have a very



Japan's main opposition Liberal Democratic Party leader Shinzo Abe answers a reporter's question at the party headquarters in Tokyo, Sunday night, Dec. 16, 2012.

heavy responsibility."

Outgoing Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda announced his resignation late Sunday, calling the election results "severe" and acknowledging his party failed to live up to the nation's high expectations.

His Democratic Party of Japan reportedly won only 57 seats. Among its casualties were eight Cabinet ministers—the most lost in an elec-

tion since World War II.

Economic issues, including plans to raise taxes and other measures to bolster Japan's underperforming economy, were the top concerns among voters.

Abe, who would be Japan's seventh prime minister in 6 1/2 years, will likely push for increased public works spending and lobby for stronger moves by the central bank to break Japan out of its deflationary trap.

## PH set to OK divisive contraceptives law

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Philippine legislators were set to pass a landmark law Monday that would provide government funding for contraceptives and sexuality classes in schools despite strong opposition by the dominant Roman Catholic Church, which said the measure would destroy family life.

President Benigno Aquino III, who certified the bill as urgent, considers it a major step toward reducing maternal deaths and promoting family planning in the impoverished country, which has one of Asia's fastest-growing populations. Church leaders said in a pastoral letter Sunday that if passed, the bill would put the

moral fiber of the nation at risk.

Archbishop Socrates Villegas, vice president of the Philippines' Bishops Conference, said that "the wide and free accessibility of contraceptives will result in the destruction of family life."

"Money for contraceptives can be better used for education and authentic health care," he said, adding that "those who corrupt the minds of children will invoke divine wrath on themselves."

The bill languished in Congress for 10 years as legislators avoided upsetting the conservative bishops, who helped mobilize popular support for the 1986 "people power" revolt that toppled dictator Ferdinand Marcos

But in a sign of changing times and attitudes, particularly across generations, reformist civil society groups and Aquino threw their weight behind the bill despite the threat of a backlash.

An independent survey in June last year found 68 percent of respondents agreed that the government should fund all means of family planning. An October survey of 600 teenagers in Manila, the capital, also carried out by the Social Weather Stations, found that 87 percent believed the government should provide reproductive health services to the poor.

deal with losses and search for missing loved ones, especially in the worst-hit provinces of Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley, where international aid groups have descended.

### Nepal farmers destroy chicken imported by KFC

**KATMANDU, Nepal** (AP)—Poultry farmers in Nepal have stopped trucks importing chicken from India for KFC restaurants and destroyed the cargo. Nepal has banned chicken from India since bird flu broke out in India four years ago. Chief government administrator of Dhading district Bed Prasad Kharel says farmers stopped and seized two trucks bringing the frozen chicken to Nepal's capital, Katmandu, on Saturday. A brief scuffle broke out between police and the farm-

ers. Police say authorities took control of the trucks, but that after consultation with livestock officials the cargo was dumped in a pit and covered.

### Royal hoax nurse's family in India for her funeral

**MANGALORE, India** (AP)—The family of a nurse found hanging in her room days after she had been duped by a hoax call from an Australian radio station about the pregnant Duchess of Cambridge arrived in India Sunday for her funeral. The funeral of Jacintha Saldanha is to take place in Shirva, her hometown in southwest India, on Monday. Saldanha's husband and two children accompanied her body from London to the nearby port city of Mangalore. Her death is being investigated as an apparent suicide.

# World

## Syrian vice president: both sides losing in war

**BEIRUT** (AP)—Syria's long-time vice president said Sunday that his regime and the rebels are both going down a losing path after 21 months of civil war, a rare admission by a top government official that President Bashar Assad's victory is unlikely.

The comments by Farouk al-Sharaa came as an Islamist faction of Syrian rebels captured an infantry base in the northern city of Aleppo, and Syrian warplanes blasted a Palestinian refugee camp in Damascus, killing eight people and wounding dozens, activists said.

Al-Sharaa told the Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar that neither the rebels nor the Assad regime can "decide the battle militarily." It appeared to be an attempt to show that the rebels are not the solution to the Syria conflict, and their victory might bring chaos to the country.

Balancing that, he said the Assad regime "cannot achieve change."

The solution to the conflict must come from within Syria, al-Sharaa said, adding that any political settlement "must include stopping all types of violence, and the creation of a national unity government with wide powers."

The Assad regime has long rejected Western involvement in the civil war and has called for talks with the opposition.

Most rebel groups refuse to meet with Assad, demanding his removal from power before laying down their arms.

Excerpts of the interview were posted on Al-Akhbar's English-language website late Sunday. The full interview will be published on Monday, the newspaper said.

Last week more than 100 nations, including the U.S., recognized the new Syrian opposition council as the legitimate

representative of the country, a boost for the opposition forces that have been bombing regime targets in and around Damascus, once an impregnable stronghold of the Assad regime.

In the latest blow to Assad, rebels overran a military base in Aleppo, Syria's largest city, the second military installation to fall there in a week.

A statement by the al-Tawheed Brigade said the rebels "fully liberated" the military facility in Aleppo on Saturday. It was posted on al-Tawheed's official website on Sunday and said the Islamist rebel brigade's commander was killed in the battle.

The complex, known as Hanano Barracks, includes an army base, a recruiting center and a military school.

The Al-Tawheed Brigade is one of the largest rebel groups operating in Aleppo, which has been a major front in the civil war since July.

One of the videos posted on the group's website shows the body of a man the narrator says is "the hero and martyr who was killed on the day of liberating the infantry school," apparently the Al-Tawheed commander, Col. Youssef al-Jader. A boy said to be the commander's son is seen crying as he leans over the dead man.

In a related development, Egypt said Sunday that it has evacuated more than 4,000 of its nationals from Syria over the past few months. The Cairo Foreign Ministry statement did not give further details. Egypt's national airline halted flights to and from Syria last month because of the deteriorating security situation.

Also Sunday, Iran put forward a six-point plan to end the Syria civil war, including negotiations, presidential elections and a halt to arms shipments.

**MAARET MISREEN, Syria** (AP)—The anti-regime locals who have thrown together a ramshackle administration to run this northern Syrian town have one main struggle: Finding money to keep their community alive. Like other nearby rebel-held towns, Maaret Misreen is broke.

Many of the town's 45,000 residents are out of work. There's no cash to keep water or electricity running, so they come on only sporadically. Prices have skyrocketed. Long lines form at the only working bakery for miles around, creating vulnerable potential targets for airstrikes.

This week, the town's main mosque preacher, Abd-el Rahim Attoun—who now doubles as the town judge—appealed to worshippers to chip in to buy fuel for communal water pumps. He asked each family to donate 200 Syrian pounds, a little under \$3, the cost of a large bunch of bananas.

But even that's too much for many residents, so no one is being forced to do that, said 29-year-old Amer Ahmado, who is an electronics engineer but was picked by the newly formed local council for the job of managing the town's meager finances.

The situation is repeated across the swath of rebel-controlled territory in northwestern Syria, said Zafer Amoura, a lawyer who represents Maaret Misreen in an emerging provincial council.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### 4 police killed in Benghazi in eastern Libya

**TRIPOLI, Libya** (AP)—Four policemen were shot dead in Libya's troubled eastern city of Benghazi on Sunday when gunmen fired rocket-propelled grenades on a security compound there, according to the Interior Ministry. Police spokesman Ezzedine al-Fazani said that the attack was linked to the recent detention of a man allegedly involved in last month's assassination of the head of one of the city's security agencies, National Security chief Col. Farag el-Dersi. The unknown assailants attacked the security compound, in an apparent attempt to break into a nearby detention center where the suspect in el-Dersi's killing is being held.

#### Fidel Castro nominated for Cuban parliament seat

**HAVANA** (AP)—Retired Cuban leader Fidel Castro has been nominated for a seat in the country's parliament, authorities said Sunday. The afternoon TV news announced "the leader

of the Cuban Revolution Fidel Castro Ruiz heads the list of 25 candidates to the Cuban parliament from the municipality of Santiago de Cuba, approved by the delegates of this state body." Castro was also named as a delegate in 2008, when he officially retired as president. It's unclear whether he has played an active role in legislative duties in the years since.

#### Chavez allies sweep Venezuela gubernatorial vote

**CARACAS, Venezuela** (AP)—Allies of President Hugo Chavez won a sweeping victory in the country's gubernatorial elections Sunday, capturing at least 19 of 23 states, the country's electoral chief said. Opposition leader Henrique Capriles held on for a re-election win in Miranda state, one of three opposition candidates who had won according to the preliminary results. Going into the vote, the opposition had held the governorships in eight states, and it lost in five of those states according to the results announced by National Electoral Council President Tibisay Lucena.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Death toll from PH typhoon breaches 1,000

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The death toll from a typhoon that devastated mountainous and coastal towns in the southern Philippines with ferocious winds and flash floods this month has risen to more than 1,000. Benito Ramos, who heads the government's main disaster-response agency, said Sunday that previously unreported deaths have brought the toll wrought by Typhoon Bopha to 1,020. A massive search for 844 other people, including hundreds of fishermen and villagers who went missing in flood-swept mountainside towns, is to continue through the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Ramos said army troops, police and government personnel have canceled Christmas celebrations to help survivors

# Focus

**CAIRO (AP)**—Nevine Mustafa finally had enough after 10 hours of waiting to cast her “no” vote in Egypt’s referendum on a highly disputed draft constitution. She and the other women in line were convinced the judge running the polling station was deliberately stalling to drive away voters opposed to the document.

So the 39-year-old housewife and dozens of other women launched a protest, blocking the street and chanting against the judge in an upper class district of Alexandria, Egypt’s second largest city.

“The line was not moving since 8 a.m. I protest. It is now 7 p.m.,” an agitated Mustafa said at the time. “He wants us to get bored and leave.” After their protest, new officials were brought in to speed up the process.

The scene was a reflection of the deep distrust of Egypt’s ruling Islamists and their management of a referendum on a draft constitution that they largely wrote. Questions raised Sunday over the referendum’s legitimacy suggest the confrontation between Islamists and their secular, liberal and Christian opponents will not be resolved by the long-awaited vote.

As Islamist President Mohammed Morsi rushed the referendum despite high pitched opposition, the dispute over the charter has turned into a fight over the Islamists’ hold on power, and the ballot has become a yes or no vote on the president himself.

Rights activists and opponents of the constitution said Sunday that the first round of voting a day earlier was marred by widespread violations, including suppression of voting by opponents of the charter, particularly women, Christians. A coalition of rights groups said the first round was invalid and should be held over again.

That appeared highly unlikely. The Muslim Brotherhood, from which Morsi hails, said the constitution was on route to approval.

But the margin from the first round of voting, which took place in 10 of Egypt’s 27 provinces, was narrow—and turnout low, at only 32 percent.

Preliminary results showed 55.8 percent backed the draft, according to the Brotherhood. Its count was based on a compilation of results announced at each individual polling station. In past elections, the Brotherhood’s counts have proven largely accurate.

The strongest “no” vote was in Cairo, with 68 percent, according to the official website of Egypt’s state television. The “yes” vote narrowly carried Egypt’s second largest city, Alexandria, with nearly 56 percent.

The head of the referendum commission said the official results will be announced after the second and last round, scheduled for next Saturday. It was an indication that reports of violations will not stop the process, at least at this stage. Islamists enjoy wide support in most of the 17 provinces in the second round.

The claims of violations are likely to further stoke tensions ahead of the second round, as each camp works to mobilize a population that largely opted to stay on the sidelines of the rivalry.

Over the past three weeks, hundreds of thousands from both camps have held rival protests in the streets that sparked violence leaving at least 9 people dead.

Brotherhood spokesman Mahmoud Ghozlan dismissed the rights groups’ allegations as politically motivated to sway public opinion.

“These organizations are funded by Western countries. Just like the Westerners hate the Islamists, so do these groups. They are seculars and they hate the Islamists and have foreign agendas,” Ghozlan said.

Despite worries over the vote’s fairness, voters “should do down in big numbers to say no,” a member of the main opposition National Salvation Front, Abdel-Ghaffar Shukr, told a press conference. The group called for new protests Tuesday.

Many voters who backed the charter argue that men who fear God have written the text, and it must be given a chance. But the women’s protest during Saturday’s voting in Alexandria’s Rushdi neighborhood reflected anger over what they view as the Brotherhood’s domineering way of ruling. Scores of women blocked traffic, chanting, “Down with the rule of the Brotherhood leader.”

A young man with a light beard—which the women took as a sign he was a Brotherhood member—tried to break up the protest, telling the women they were obstructing traffic, said Mustafa, who herself wears a conservative headscarf.

“So we shouted: Down with Morsi,” she said.

The women contend the judge running the station was trying to suppress voting in the district, known to be a stronghold of “no” voters. He repeatedly closed the station for long breaks to pray, talk on the phone, or eat, said Nada Abdel-Azim, a 23-year old who was among the protesters.

“He even asked one voter what she voted,” she said. When told “no,” he shut down for another break, she said.

“The country is split into two. We too are Muslims. Why are they labeling us infidels” for rejecting the charter, said Abdel-Azim, a teacher.

Standing in the same line, Mervat Ahmed, a 42-year woman wearing a veil that left only her eyes visible—a sign of the most conservative Muslims—got angry when an acquaintance called her to urge her to vote “yes.”

“No, don’t tell me this. I am still voting no,” she shouted into the phone. Explaining herself, she said: “I am not convinced by this constitution. The president has great powers. I don’t want to wait more years to try to strip him of this power. We will not be able to by that time.”

By the end of the day, only 2,873 of the 6,500 women registered in Rushdi district were able to vote. The “no” vote

# Mistrust runs deep over Egypt referendum

## Battle for power in Egypt

*Since February 2011 when longtime Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak was toppled, the creation of a new government in Egypt has seen a dramatic struggle unfold at almost every turn.*

### The presidency

Although Mohammed Morsi was elected president in June, since then his efforts to establish and use his power have prompted massive protests; the Muslim Brotherhood party he represents was the main party resisting Mubarak

**May 10** Morsi not included in televised debate because he is in third or fourth place

**May 25** Initial presidential vote puts Morsi in a runoff with Ahmed Shafiq, a former Mubarak prime minister and retired air force general

**June 16-17** Runoff elections held, after which Morsi claims victory

**June 24** Egypt’s national elections commission announces Morsi’s victory; “I am the president of all of Egypt,” Morsi says, while resigning from the Muslim Brotherhood

**June 30** Morsi sworn in; “The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces has kept its word and fulfilled its promise; the elected institutions will come back to take their role, and the Egyptian armed forces, Egypt’s great army, will return to protecting the borders of the country,” he says

**Aug. 2** Morsi swears in 35-member cabinet, including ministers held over from the interim military government



**Aug. 12** Top military leaders are dismissed by Morsi in a move that essentially gives him control over the executive and legislative branches of government

**Oct. 13** Morsi backs off decision to replace prosecutor general after protests from judges and lawyers

**Nov. 22** Morsi makes a decree that weakens the court and frees him from judicial oversight, sparking demonstrations of support and protest

**Nov. 24** Judges threaten a nationwide strike and demand Morsi reverse his decree

**Nov. 26** Morsi meets with judges and suggests he will scale back proposal

**Dec. 4** Protesters march on presidential palace against Morsi’s expanded powers

**Dec. 9** Morsi rescinds most of decree giving him immunity from judicial oversight but vows to keep constitution referendum

Source: Foreign Assistance Dashboard, news reports, Tribune reporting

### The legislature and constitution

The battle to determine who controls the drafting of a new constitution as well as lawmaking and budget power pits the Muslim Brotherhood versus the military and other forces pressing for a more democratic system

**June 14** Egypt’s highest court dissolves parliament, putting the constitution-writing process in doubt

**June 17** Supreme Council of the Armed Forces decrees it has the right to form Egypt’s legislature, write the constitution and control the budget

**June 19** Muslim Brotherhood leads thousands of protesters in Cairo’s Tahrir Square against military council’s decree

**July 8** Morsi issues a decree for parliament to reconvene; the military challenges it in court

**July 10** Parliament, led by Muslim Brotherhood, meets despite court order

**Aug. 15** Court hears military’s challenge to Morsi and the assembly



**Oct. 10** Draft of constitution, created by parliament, unveiled for public review; draft states that Egypt is “a democratic regime” guided by the principles of Shariah, or Islamic law

**Oct. 23** Challenge to parliament is referred to Supreme Constitutional Court

**Nov. 30** Parliament approves draft of constitution

**Dec. 1** Morsi says a referendum on the new constitution will be held Dec. 15

**Dec. 2** The Supreme Constitutional Court suspends indefinitely its ruling on the constitutionality of the assembly as thousands of Morsi supporters rally in front of the court building; it agreed the next day to oversee the vote

**Dec. 6** Morsi offers talks but vows to keep constitution vote

**Dec. 12** Government lays out constitution vote in two steps, one Dec. 15 and the next Dec. 22

Graphic: Chicago Tribune © 2012 MCT

wait to vote.

She said she was voting “no” “to clear my conscience, but she expected the “yes” to win. “It is a joke. I don’t trust them,” she said.

Most of the country’s judges, who normally supervise elections, boycotted the referendum. Opposition voters accused the judges who did participate of being biased, saying some influenced people to vote “yes.” Other voters Saturday also reported suspected Brotherhood members inside polling stations urging people to vote in favor of the charter.

Some judges, in turn, complained that they were overburdened because of the boycott, causing long waits.

Ghozlan alleged the opposition had also committed voting violations, such campaigning in stations against the charter. He said his group will file its own complaints to the referendum commission.

For Islamists, the constitution is the keystone for their ambitions to bring Islamic rule, a goal they say is justified by their large victory in last winter’s parliamentary elections.

The opposition had demanded Morsi cancel the referendum because the draft was passed by Islamists in the Constituent Assembly amid a boycott by secular, liberal and Christian members. For opponents, the draft threatens the notion of moderate Islam Egypt had adopted for decades. They fear it will torpedo many freedoms, from the rights of women and minorities to freedoms of expression and labor organizing.

At a press conference Sunday, representatives of seven rights groups denounced the vote, saying it was carried out without sufficient guarantees of fairness. They said they had reports some polling centers closed earlier than scheduled and that in some cases Christians were denied entry to polls and women were prevented from voting. They said they had reports of individuals falsely identifying themselves as judges.

Negad Borai, the head of one of the groups, said the election commission did not investigate thousands of complaints on alleged violations and irregularities.

On his Twitter account, Mohamed ElBaradei, Egypt’s best known reform leader, questioned whether a vote held “under insufficient judicial supervision, clearly tenuous security and the violence and violations we are witnessing” could lead to stability.

The National Council for Human Rights, a state agency, also said that vote-buying took place outside polling centers and that some independent monitors were turned away from polling stations.

While the charges are serious, they don’t touch the wholesale vote fraud that defined Mubarak’s 29-year rule.

In Alexandria’s middle-class el-Shatbi neighborhood, a group of women complained that their ballots were not stamped, raising concerns that the votes wouldn’t be counted.

Habiba el-Sayed, a 49-year-old housewife, screamed at the line as she walked out of the station, urging other women to ensure that their ballots were stamped.

“For two hours, people voted without stamped ballots. Beware,” she screamed.

overwhelmingly carried the neighborhood, with only 552 “yes” votes. Amina Fouad, a 43-year-old self-employed businesswoman, said the

# Overdrive

# Ford C-Max Energi brings fun to hybrid segment

By TERRY BOX  
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Hybrids look right at home parked outside frilly townhouses in San Francisco, ready to save the world from SUVs and Republicans.

After all, Leonardo what's-his-name and lots of very important blond actresses in Hollywood sometimes drive the stolid little sparkies, stepping stylishly from them for their weekly People portraits.

But it's really hard to imagine one sailing gleefully along at 85 mph, wearing a wicked late-night grin.

Let's be brutally blunt here, kids: Most hybrids are about as much fun as a libertarian sock-hop.

I'm just glad Ford didn't get the email.

Ford already builds several credible hybrids, including a well-received version of the Fusion sedan.

For some reason, the company—which still relies heavily on big, hairy-chested pickups—decided to go even further, sending us the wonderfully odd 2013 C-Max Energi, a plug-in hybrid station wagon/crossover thing.

Let me interpret some of that for you: The C-Max is based on Ford's highly European Focus platform and is kind of a cross between a tall minivan and a Euro station wagon.

As I'm sure you've read, plug-in hybrids start with a conventional gas-electric hybrid powertrain—in this case, a two-liter, four-cylinder engine tied to an electric motor.

Plug-in hybrids get a stouter battery pack so you can drive them in fully electric mode for a relatively short distance.

That supposedly equates to 20 or so miles at speeds up to 75 mph in the C-Max.

Once the juice is gone, the C-Max reverts to a conventional hybrid that's able to speed along until it runs out of gas—though you'll have to recharge the battery if you want to buzz around in all-electric mode again.

I suggest you save that mode for fer-



FORD/MCT

The 2013 Ford C-Max Energi plug-in hybrid has a more robust battery than the regular C-Max hybrid. Inset, at the touch the EV mode button, Ford C-Max Energi plug-in hybrid drivers can switch to electric-only power up to 85 mph.

rying old hippies and Democrats in the inner city, and rely mostly on the C-Max's lively 188-horsepower gas and electric motors, rated at 44 miles per gallon in the city.

You won't feel deprived. When I got my first look at the tall, somewhat thick C-Max, I thought "pig that plows."

At about 64 inches, my silver C-Max was too tall for me to see over easily—sadly.

Up front, the \$33,745 C-Max wore a Focus front end with a single-bar grille up high and a toothier six-bar grille beneath it.

Unlike the homely Toyota Prius, it rolled on real wheels and tires—225/50 tires on turbine-style 17-inch wheels, which helped offset some of its body bulk.

A short, raised hood and enormous

## NUTS & BOLTS

### 2013 Ford C-Max Energi

- **Type of vehicle:** Five-passenger, five-door, front-wheel-drive wagon/crossover
- **Price as tested:** No window sticker, but it has a base price of \$32,950
- **Fuel economy:** 44 miles per gallon city, 41 mpg highway
- **Weight:** About 3,900 pounds
- **Engine:** Two-liter, four-cylinder gas engine coupled to a permanent-magnet AC synchronous electric motor, producing a total of 188 horsepower
- **Performance:** 0 to 60 mph in 9 seconds
- **Safety rating:** Unrated

swept-back headlamps flowed crisply into a huge, dramatically raked windshield. Four big doors framed windows that might fit in a Greyhound bus, providing fine visibility.

They opened onto a black interior with immense leg- and headroom—though the vehicle's specialized electronics consumed a portion of the cargo space behind the rear seats.

If you like highly contemporary style, you'll appreciate this environment. A stylized black hood over the instrument panel rolled into a larger hood over a prominent center stack with a 5-by-7-inch navigation screen up high.

It was flanked by large climate-control vents and slid down into a sleek silver plastic console with a rally-style shifter for the C-Max's continuously variable transmission.

Best of all, the steering wheel and seats were wrapped in smooth black leather, with the rich-looking seats providing reasonably good support.

The seating position was almost as upright as in a minivan. And like all Citizen Skippy hybrids, the C-Max started silently, with a lighted instrument panel the only clue that things were percolating beneath the hood and floor.

At 3,900 pounds, the C-Max seemed too porky to be perky. But its electric motor gave it a good shove away from stops, whirring to 30 mph or so under my heavy foot before the gas engine stepped in to do the real lifting.

And once the gas engine awakened, it responded enthusiastically to prods, emitting healthy four-cylinder sounds as it accelerated to 60 in 9 seconds flat, according to Car and Driver.

That is seven-tenths of a second quicker than the Prius or Nissan Leaf, and it ties President Greenjeans' favorite sparker, the Chevrolet Volt.

Although its CVT droned under long acceleration runs, it was programmed to kick down into a passing "gear" of sorts, giving a nice little lunge when you needed a burst of power.

Even better, the C-Max offered quick and fairly lively steering—a rarity in a front-wheel-drive hybrid—that helped give the thing pretty aggressive turn-in.

Though it leaned initially, the C-Max firmed up some as it moved pretty crisply through moderate-speed curves, encouraging some slightly irresponsible drivers to flog it a bit.

I kind of enjoyed it, and I rarely say that about any mainstream hybrid.

But unlike me, hybrids continue to progress.

At some point in the near future, I bet we'll be driving lightweight vehicles with clean, torquey diesel engines tied to highly efficient electric motors—those of us who aren't still banging around in old outlaw V-8-powered cars.

And maybe hybrids will finally be more than political symbols then.

covered. Maybe I've just been lucky, but I've never had any damage from rain, snow or hail.

The "garage in a box" concept—a light metal framework with a vinyl covering and zip-up "door"—would protect the vehicle from hail and heavy storms. These are portable garages, so to speak, and typically sell at home improvement stores for less than \$500. The heavier metal framed steel-roofed garages are somewhat more expensive but obviously more protective and durable and would be a better choice for more permanent outside storage.

*Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive trouble-shooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.*

# Murano runs rough; dealer puzzled

By PAUL BRAND  
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

**QUESTION:** We have a 2003 Nissan Murano with 102,000 miles that we purchased new. Three times in the past year the car suddenly started running extremely rough. The engine jerked and bucked for 5 to 10 minutes. While this was happening, the "service engine soon" light was blinking on and off, but it has never once recorded or stored a fault code. Each time this happened, we pulled over, turned the car off and let it sit for a few minutes. When we restarted the car, it ran just fine again.

The first time this happened, the dealership ran a diagnostic but couldn't find anything. They recommended the 90,000-mile scheduled maintenance, which included new plugs, wires and a

tuneup. I did this and thought the problem was solved. But it has happened two more times since then. Without a specific fault code, I really hate to take it to the dealership and have them start replacing parts in attempt to find the problem.

**ANSWER:** Typically, the flashing "check engine/service engine soon" light points toward multiple misfires and a significant amount of excess unburned fuel reaching the catalytic converter—enough to potentially damage the converter. With no fault codes stored, start with a back-pressure test of the exhaust system to determine if the converter may be clogged or the exhaust system restricted. This test involves removing the front oxygen sensor, installing a pressure gauge and running the engine. More than about 2 pounds per square inch back-pressure could indicate some type of restriction.

The intermittent nature of your misfire might also point to a possible ignition problem. Since you had new plugs and wires installed, the coil packs may be suspect. Also, my Alldata database pulled up a Nissan recall in 2003 that called for upgraded crankshaft and cam-shaft position sensors in certain Nissan engines from that year. It might be worth checking with the dealership to see if your vehicle was included and whether the updated parts have been installed.

**Q: A lot of water got in my 1998 GMC Jimmy's gas tank. I drained the tank and pumped out the water. It will run if I pour gas in the throttle body but quits when I stop pouring gas in. It will not stay running.**

**A:** Can you hear the fuel pump run for 2 seconds when you first turn the key to the "on" position before cranking the engine? If not, check its relay.

Also, look for a green unconnected wire near the driver's side inner fender that is used to prime the fuel injection at the factory. It's possible to apply battery voltage to this wire—make sure you identify the correct wire!—to test-operate the fuel pump. And, finally, debris may be clogging the sock filter on the fuel pickup inside the tank.

**Q: It may be a bit late in the year to ask this, but I have a couple of cars that sit outside all winter and I cringe when heavy weather rolls in. Are there any car covers available that actually protect your car from hail damage?**

**A:** This is sort of a good news/bad news question. A car cover made of heavy fabric or plastic might protect from hail damage, but would potentially damage the finish from abrasion.

For decades I've parked cars outside and intentionally left them un-

# Life & Style

## Springsteen, Gaga join Stones; Newtown noted

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Only at a Rolling Stones concert could appearances by Bruce Springsteen and Lady Gaga seem almost like afterthoughts.

Those superstars and other top acts including the Black Keys and John Mayer jammed with the Stones on Saturday night, winding down a series of concerts celebrating the 50th year of rock's most enduring band (the occasion was also marked by a pay-per-view special).

The Boss rocked out with the band on out “Tumbling Dice”; Gaga matched Mick Jagger shimmy-for-shimmy on “Gimme Shelter”; the Black Keys joined on “Who Do You Love,” and John Mayer and Gary Clark Jr. showed their considerable guitar chops alongside Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood on “Goin’ Down.”

But the Stones would not be upstaged. While the sold-out crowd roared with each special guest, it was the aging but dynamic foursome that generated the most excitement of the night, as they put new energy into their decades-old catalog of hits, including “It’s Only Rock ‘N Roll (But I Like It),” “Start Me Up,” “Brown Sugar,” “Sympathy for the Devil” and more.

The band took a moment to acknowledge the shooting deaths of 20 children and six adults at an elementary school Friday in Newtown, Conn. “We just wanted to send our love and condolences to all the people who lost loved ones in the tragedy in Connecticut,”

cut,” Jagger early on in the concert as the audience applauded. Jagger noted the entire world was feeling the pain of the stunned nation.

But it was the only somber moment in an an frenetic show that showed why the Stones are considered by many to be the greatest rock band, and belied the much-discussed advanced age of the group’s lineup (their ages range between 65 and 71).

Jagger himself poked fun at the senior citizen status of the band and their fans; speaking of the pay-per-view crowd at home, he joked: “Some of you have got your grandchildren watching you.”

But few acts in their so-called prime would have been able to match the energy the Stones radiated onstage. The group had the crowd on its feet for the entire show as Jagger gyrated across the stage, his voice in top form. Both Wood and Richards dazzled on guitar (Richards got a raucous, sustained ovation as he took over vocals on two songs). And Charlie Watts kept the beat strong on the drums.

Before performing in London together late last month for the first of the concerts, the Stones hadn’t performed in concert together since 2007. Going into these shows, there was some speculation that Saturday’s concert, held at the Prudential Center, might be their last.



Musician Bruce Springsteen, center left, performs with, from left, Ronnie Wood, Mick Jagger, Charlie Watts and Keith Richards of The Rolling Stones at the Prudential Center in Newark, NJ on Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012. AP

Earlier in the evening, Jagger teased that the concert might signal the end: “This could be the last time; I don’t know,” he said. But by the end of the evening, it seemed clear that the question was not when the Stones would return, but when.

“This is the last show of our anniversary tour, and we hope to see you all again soon,” Jagger said.

Perhaps the night’s most special guest was Mick Taylor, the former Stones guitarist who was part of some of their big-

gest moments from 1969 to 1975, when he left the group. He rejoined his band mates (and the man who replaced him, Wood) onstage for a powerful performance of “Midnight Rambler”.

### Depardieu wants to surrender French passport

**PARIS** (AP)—Gerard Depardieu, one of France’s best-known actors, has chastised his country’s Socialist prime minister for insulting remarks over his decision to move to tax-friendly Belgium and said in an open letter published Sunday that he’s turning in his passport.

The letter, which the weekly *Le Journal du Dimanche* said was penned by Depardieu, quickly propelled him into the spotlight, not for his acclaimed acting skills but for raising the sensitive issue of tax exiles as France looks to fill state coffers with a stiff tax on the rich.

“We no longer have the same country. I’m a true European, a citizen of the world,” Depardieu wrote in the letter. He said his 2012 tax bill—85 percent of his revenue—is fully paid.

Depardieu, who turns 64 this month, said he has worked since the age of 14, first as a printer, and that in last 45 years he has paid €145 million (\$190 million) in taxes.

“I hand over my passport to you and my social security card, which I have never used,” the letter said, referring to Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault.

Last week, Ayrault called Depardieu “pathetic” and “unpatriotic” for the actor’s decision to move to Néchin, a Belgian village barely a mile (1.6 kilometers) across the border from Lille in northern France. Néchin has drawn other high-earning French residents.

The letter drew quick reaction but little sympathy.

Culture Minister Aurelie Filippetti said she was “scandalized” by Depardieu’s decision to turn in his passport. “French citizenship, it’s an honor,” she said on BFM-TV. “It is rights and duties, too, among them to be able to pay taxes.”

President François Hollande plans to

levy a 75 percent tax on revenue over €1 million to reduce France’s budget deficit and debt, and Filippetti said, “Gerard Depardieu is deserting the battle in the war against the crisis.”

David Assouline, a spokesman for the governing Socialist Party, said of the actor: “He’s playing his worst role.”

But Depardieu said in the letter that he is leaving his country because the government “considers that success, creation, talent ... should be sanctioned.”

Others have crossed the border before Depardieu, notably the man billed as France’s richest, Bernard Arnault, chief of the luxury goods and fashion giant LVMH and worth an estimated \$41 billion. He is seeking Belgian citizenship.

It’s unclear whether Depardieu realizes his proclamation may in the end just be a symbolic gesture because it’s hard to stop being a French citizen. The Civil Code says one must have another nationality in order to give up French citizenship because it is forbidden to be stateless.

Depardieu’s burly presence is well-known in France.

He has made more than 150 films and is internationally acclaimed, including an Academy Award nomination for his portrayal of Cyrano de Bergerac in the 1990 film by the same name.

In an upcoming movie to be directed by Abel Ferrara, Depardieu will portray former International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn, who fell from power on claims by a New York hotel maid of sexual assault. Charges were dropped and a civil settlement was reached.

A French case that Strauss-Kahn seeks to dismiss is pending.

## Jason Mraz tops Myanmar anti-trafficking concert

**YANGON, Myanmar** (AP)—American singer-songwriter Jason Mraz mixed entertainment with education to become the first world-class entertainer in decades to perform in Myanmar, with a concert to raise awareness of human trafficking.

Mraz’s 2008 hit “I’m Yours” was the finale for Sunday night’s concert before a crowd of about 50,000 people at the base of the famous hilltop Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, the country’s biggest city.

Local artists, including a hip-hop singer, also played at the event organized by MTV in cooperation with U.S. and Australian government aid agencies and the anti-slavery organization Walk Free.

Myanmar is emerging from decades of isolation under a reformist elected government that took office last year after almost five decades of military rule. It has been one of the region’s poorest countries, and its bad human rights record made it the target of political and economic sanctions by Western nations.

But democratic reforms initiated by President Thein Sein have led to the lifting of most sanctions, and the country is hopeful of a political and economic revival. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, the pro-democracy opposition leader, was released from house arrest in late 2010 and won a seat in parliament last April.

Mraz called his top-billed appear-



Mraz

ance at the concert a “tremendous honor.”

“I think the country is, at this time, downloading lots of new information from all around the world,” he said. “I’ve always wanted my music to be here, (for) hope and celebration, peace, love and happiness. And so I’m delighted that my music can be a part of this big download that Myanmar is experiencing right now.”

Organizers said Mraz was the first international artist to perform at an open-air, mass public concert in Myanmar. Jazz artists Count Basie, Duke Ellington and Charlie Byrd visited the country under U.S. government sponsorship in the 1970s, when it was still called Burma, but played at much smaller venues.

Many in the crowd queued for two hours before being admitted to the concert site. Yangon native Sann Oo, 31, wearing a white T-shirt with a sketch of Mraz, said he was pleased that Mraz had come and that there would be a broadcast of the event.

“His visit can promote the image of Myanmar, because people outside have been seeing the country as an insecure place, and poor,” he said. “Now they can see how we look like from the concert. It also opens the potential for more concerts by for-

eign artists.”

Mraz has a history of involvement with human rights and other social causes.

But there was some criticism of his visit by campaigners for Myanmar’s Muslim Rohingya community, which has been the target of ethnic-based violence this year that has forced scores of thousands of people from their homes into makeshift refugee camps. They feel Myanmar’s government has been complicit in the discrimination, and that Mraz’s visit provides it cover with the image of being a defender of human rights.

Walk Free used the occasion of Sunday’s concert to launch a campaign calling on the world’s major corporations “to work together to end modern slavery by identifying, eradicating and preventing forced labor in their operations and supply chains.” They are seeking to have the companies make a “zero tolerance for slavery pledge” by the end of March next year.

“While many think of slavery as a relic of history, experts estimate that there are currently 20.9 million people living under threat of violence, abuse and harsh penalties,” the Australia-based group said in a statement. “Within this massive number, the majority of people—more than 14.2 million—are in a forced labor situation, used to source raw materials, and create products in sectors such as agriculture, construction, manufacturing and domestic work.”



Depardieu

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Friday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

## NOW SHOWING



### The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D

Friday	4:20	7:45	10:10
Saturday	12:55	4:20	7:45
Sunday	12:55	4:20	7:45
Monday thru Thursday	4:20	7:45	

Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage  
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13

### Synopsis

The creative team behind the Lord of the Rings trilogy returns to Middle-earth with this adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's classic precursor -The Hobbit. Peter Jackson and Fran Walsh share writing duties with Guillermo del Toro on the Warner Bros./MGM joint production, the story of which will span two films.



### The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 2D

Friday	4:10	7:35	10:00
Saturday	12:45	4:10	7:35
Sunday	12:45	4:10	7:35
Monday thru Thursday	4:10	7:35	

Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage  
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13



### Playing for Keeps

Friday	4:15	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:15	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:15	7:20
Monday thru Thursday	4:15	7:20	

Cast: Gerard Butler, Jessica Biel, Dennis Quaid  
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG 13



### Rise of the Guardians 3D

Friday	7:30	10:55
Saturday	1:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	7:30
Monday thru Thursday	7:30	

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin  
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG



### Life of Pi 3D

Friday	7:05	9:50
Saturday	1:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	7:05
Monday thru Thursday	7:05	

Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irrfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall  
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG



### Red Dawn

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:35
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Monday thru Thursday	4:25	7:25	

Cast: Chris Hemsworth, Josh Peck, Josh Hutcherson  
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13



### Life of Pi 2D

Friday	4:05
Saturday	4:05
Sunday	4:05
Monday thru Thursday	4:05

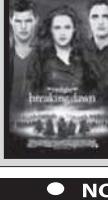
Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irrfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall  
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG



### Rise of the Guardians 2D

Friday	4:30
Saturday	4:30
Sunday	4:30
Monday thru Thursday	4:30

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin  
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG



### Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2

Friday	4:00	7:00	10:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Monday thru Thursday	4:00	7:00	

Cast: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner  
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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This publicity film image released by Warner Bros., shows, from left: Dean O'Gorman as Fili; Aidan Turner as Kili; Mark Hadlow as Dori; Jed Brophy as Nori; and William Kircher as Bifur, in a scene from the fantasy adventure "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey."

## 'Hobbit' bests 'Rings' with \$84.8M opening

NEW YORK (AP) — Peter

Jackson's "Rings" movies

drew many accolades—

"The Return of the King" won best picture from the Academy Awards—the path for "The Hobbit" has been rockier. Particularly criticized has been the film's 48-frames-per-second (double the usual rate), a hyper-detailed look that some have found jarring. Most moviegoers didn't see "The Hobbit" in that version, though, as the new technology was rolled out in only 461 of the 4,045 theaters playing the film.

Regardless of any misgivings over "The Hobbit," the film was a hit with audiences. They graded the film with an "A" CinemaScore.

"What's really important, what makes this special is the CinemaScore," said Dan Fellman, president of domestic distribution for Warner Bros. "All these things point to a great word of mouth. We haven't even made it to the Christmas holidays yet. Kids are still in school this week."

The strong opening culmi-

1. **"The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey,"** \$84.8 million (\$138.2 million international).

2. **"Rise of the Guardians,"** \$7.4 million (\$20.1 million international).

3. **"Lincoln,"** \$7.2 million.

4. **"Skyfall,"** \$7 million (\$12.2 million international).

5. **"Life of Pi,"** \$5.4 million (\$11.5 million international).

6. **"The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 2,"** \$5.2 million (\$13 million international).

7. **"Wreck-It Ralph,"** \$3.3 million (\$4.7 million international).

8. **"Playing for Keeps,"** \$3.2 million (\$1.4 million international).

9. **"Red Dawn,"** \$2.4 million.

10. **"Silver Linings Playbook,"** \$2 million (\$370,000 international).

nated a long journey for "The Hobbit," which was initially de-

layed when a lawsuit dragged on between Jackson and "Rings" producer New Line Cinema over merchandising revenue. At one point, Guillermo del Toro was to direct the film with Jackson producing. But eventually the filmmaker opted to direct the movie himself, originally envisioning two "Hobbit" films. The production also went through the bankruptcy of distribution partner MGM and a labor dispute in New Zealand, where the film was shot.

The long delay for "The Hobbit," nearly a decade after the last "Lord of the Rings" film, made it "one of those movies that had everyone scratching their heads as to how it would open," said Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

"It's been a decade since the 'Lord of the Rings' trilogy concluded," said Dergarabedian. "There's been so much anticipation for this film and having Peter Jackson back at the helm just made it irresistible both to fans and the non-initiated alike."



Cumberbatch

Harrison—who he describes as "a phenomenal one-man weapon of mass destruction"—on an iPhone in his friend's kitchen.

Fans wanting to see the footage can catch it in front of selected IMAX 3D screenings worldwide of "The Hobbit," beginning Friday.

"Star Trek Into Darkness," directed by J.J. Abrams, opens next May.

The Associated Press spoke to the "Sherlock" star Friday after the presentation.

**AP: "How did it feel coming here and seeing your face so big on that screen?"**

**BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH:**

"I always get incredibly nervous, especially on an empty stomach

# A children's choir opens 'SNL' with 'Silent Night'

**NEW YORK** (AP)—“Saturday Night Live” made a rare departure from its comedic opening to pay tribute to the children and adults killed at a Connecticut elementary school.

Not known for treating anything seriously or tenderly, the show made a fitting exception during the first moments of its show Saturday. Rather than the usual comedic sketch, a children’s choir appeared on camera and angelically sang “Silent Night,” with the touching refrain, “Sleep in heavenly peace.”

Then the members of the New York City Children’s Chorus shouted out the NBC show’s time-honored introduction: “Live from New York, it’s ‘Saturday Night!’”

It was the night’s sole reference to the tragedy and struck just the right tone.

Later, the chorus returned to join musical guest Paul McCartney in a rendition of his “Wonderful Christmas Time.”

Appearing in a sketch in an unbilled cameo, actor Samuel L. Jackson made a distinctive contribution of his own.

Pretending to be miffed at getting interrupted as a guest on the mock talk show “What Up with That?” Jackson said what sounded very much like an obscenity, followed by another term usually blipped out from live TV broadcasts.

Playing the host of “What Up with That?” Kenan Thompson looked startled by Jackson’s vulgarities but kept going.

“C’mon, Sam. That costs money!” he quipped, cracking up the studio audience, by referring to possible fines for airing obscenities. The guest host was Martin Short.

Moments after the show ended, Jackson tried to explain in a Twitter posting.

“I only said FUH,” he insisted, adding that Thompson was supposed to cut him off with his second eruption, but “blew it!”

Jackson’s tweet was accompanied by a photo of himself looking mortified.

Besides Jackson, some of the stars dropping by for this special Christmas “SNL” included Alec Baldwin, Tom Hanks, Kristen Wiig, Jimmy Fallon and Tina Fey. The guest host was Martin Short.

## Kate Middleton attends UK sports awards show

In this Thursday, Sept. 13, 2012 file photo, Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge visits the Kranji Commonwealth War Memorial in Singapore. AP

### Switzerland sends Salvation Army to Eurovision gig

**GENEVA** (AP)—Switzerland is putting its faith in the Salvation Army to win the Eurovision Song Contest when it is staged in Malmö, Sweden, next year.

Television viewers chose one of the Christian missionary group’s Swiss chapters, whose bass player is 94 years old, from among five national finalists late Saturday.

The Eurovision contest is a kitschy fixture on the European cultural calendar watched by more than 100 million people across the world.

Viewers and juries pick the winner from an eclectic mix of bubblegum pop and rock acts representing each European country.

Political songs are forbidden and Swiss media have speculated that the Salvation Army’s Christian aims might still fall afoul of the rules.

Switzerland hasn’t won the contest since Canadian singer Celine Dion represented the country in 1988.



## Beck looks for new connection with ‘Song Reader’

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—Beck Hansen wants you to think about the way music has changed over the last century and what that means about how human beings engage each other these days.

Laboring over the intricate and ornate details of his new “Song Reader” sheet music project, he was struck by how social music used to be—something we’ve lost in the age of ear buds.

“You watch an old film and see how people would dance together in the ‘20s, ‘30s and ‘40s. You’d go out and people would switch partners and it was a way of social interaction,” Hansen said. “It’s something that was part of what brought people together. Play-

ing music in the home is another aspect of that that’s been lost. Again, I’m not on a campaign to get people to take up songs and play music in their home or anything. But it is interesting to me, the loss of that, what it means.”

Beck hopes the “Song Reader” inspires some of us to pick up instruments and limber our vocal cords. It includes 20 songs annotated on sheet music that’s been decorated in the style popular in the early 20th century when the songwriting industry was a thriving enterprise with billions of songs sold.

The 42-year-old singer notes in the book’s preface that Bing Crosby’s “Sweet Leilani” sold

an estimated 54 million copies in 1937, meaning about 40 percent or more of the U.S. population was engaged in learning how to play that song. They were touching it directly, speeding it up, slowing it down, changing the lyrics and creating something new.

“There’s popular bands now that people know the words to their songs and can sing along, but there’s something about playing a song for yourself or for your friends and family that allows you to inhabit the song and by some sort of osmosis

it becomes part of who you are in a way,” he said. “So when I think of my great-grandparents’

generations, music

defined their lives in a different way than it does now.”

Beck proposed the idea to McSweeney’s Dave Eggers in 2004 and it soon blossomed into something more ambitious as the artist wrapped his mind around the challenge of not just writing a song, but presenting it in a classic way that also engages fans who might not be able to read music or play their own instruments.



Beck

### Woman looking ahead wants boyfriend to adopt her view

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I am 20 and have been with my boyfriend, “Griffin,” for five years. He recently gave me a beautiful promise ring. I would like to spend the rest of my life with him, but I think I have a problem.

I am going to become an adoption professional, and I plan on adopting one day. Griffin knows I’m pursuing this career and that I want to adopt, but I don’t think he understands how serious I am about it. We don’t plan on being married until after college, when we’ll both be 25.

How do I let him know I’m serious about this? I don’t want to wait five more years and find he’s not on the same page and that I wasted my time. When I try to discuss it, Griffin says we’re “too young to think about it.” What do I say to that?

MAPPING OUT MY FUTURE IN L.A.

**DEAR MAPPING:** It appears you are more mature than your boyfriend. Because you are determined to eventually adopt a child, I agree that it’s important for you to know whether Griffin has any negative feelings about adoption because some people are unable to accept a child who is not their own. The next time he says you’re too young to think about such things, explain that.

There is a vast difference between a “promise ring” and a little gold band. Because Griffin presented you with a promise ring is no guarantee that in five years the two of you will make it to the altar together. You may need to be with someone who, like you, is more geared to mapping out a future and wants to settle down.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■  
**DEAR ABBY:** My daughter, “Annie,” is a single mother, holds a full-time job and trains for triathlons. Her son, “Cooper,” is 3. Annie has him enrolled in day care from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. every day while she’s at work. Afterward, she picks up Cooper from day care and checks him into the gym’s child care service while she works out.

I have offered to pick my grandson up from day care once a week and keep him until Annie finishes her work-out. My other daughter has offered to pick him up twice a week so he can play with his cousin at her house.

Annie has become defensive. She says we’re offering because we think she’s neglecting him. Actually, I DO think so. It breaks my heart that my grandson spends 12 hours a day in day care. Do you agree with me? What should I do?

WORRIED GRANNY IN THE SOUTHWEST

**DEAR WORRIED GRANNY:** Annie may be defensive because she feels some guilt, or because you need to become a better actress and transmit less disapproval.

Apologize to her if that will smooth things over. Explain that you would like Cooper to spend time with you because you love him and want him to develop warm childhood memories of his grandmother. Tell Annie that her sister wants him to spend time with his cousin so they will have a closer bond when they’re older. Then cross your fingers and hope she’ll accept the offers.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■  
**DEAR ABBY:** What is your definition of a committed relationship?

TRYING FOR ONE IN TEXAS

**DEAR TRYING:** A committed relationship is one in which both parties agree that it will remain mutually exclusive.

*Dear Abby* is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

*Abby* shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “*Abby’s Favorite Recipes*” and “*More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby*.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby*, Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



*Dear Abby*

# Pastimes

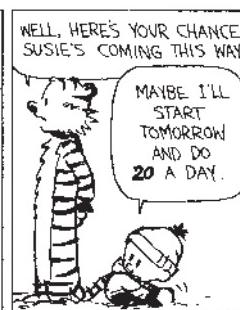
## Calvin and Hobbes



OK HOBBS,  
I'VE GOT  
A PLAN.  
YEAH?



IF I DO TEN SPONTANEOUS  
ACTS OF GOOD WILL A DAY  
FROM NOW UNTIL CHRISTMAS,  
SANTA WILL HAVE TO BE  
LENIENT IN JUDGING THE  
REST OF THIS LAST YEAR!  
I CAN CLAIM I'VE TURNED  
A NEW LEAF!



TEN SPONTANEOUS ACTS OF  
GOOD WILL A DAY? THAT'S  
PRETTY MANY.

DON'T  
REMIND ME.



MAYBE I'LL  
START  
TOMORROW  
AND DO  
20 A DAY.



ONLY ONE MORE WEEK  
OF BEING GOOD TILL  
CHRISTMAS!



CHRISTMAS CAROL  
POLKA!



ROLLLLL  
OUT THE  
EGGNOG...

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## Adam@home



OKAY, MOM. I'LL DO MY  
CHRISTMAS LIST. I'M  
GOING TO NEED SIX OR  
SEVEN PENCILS...



...AND A BIG  
STACK OF  
PAPER.



MAYBE YOU  
COULD DO IT ON  
THE COMPUTER  
AND WE CAN  
EMAIL IT?

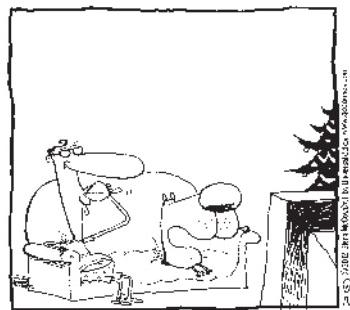


THAT'S WHAT I LIKE  
ABOUT TECHNOLOGY... IT'S  
EFFICIENT AND IT  
SAVES TREES.



SORRY,  
TREE.

## The Duplex



MAN, THAT'S  
GOOD STUFF!!



I GOTTA  
UPDATE MY  
NOG-BLOG!

By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		38	From then on	3	Genetic letters	22	PBS science show
1	Muse's instrument	40	Icelandic epic	4	Accompany to a party	23	Insure
5	Renders speechless	42	Industrious insect	5	Pinnacle	24	Glasgow girl
9	Obtain	43	Port city of Ecuador	6	Courts	26	Transmitted
12	Billions of years	44	Eisenhower	7	Right angle	27	Allow
13	Future stallion	45	Being, to Brutus	8	Germ-free	28	Hollywood clasher
14	Multi-purpose truck	46	Major	9	Central American nation	29	"... — protest too much"
15	Avocado dip	47	Caustic solution	10	Leave an impression	31	Went back on an agreement
17	Top card	48	"— of Our Lives"	11	Golf gadgets	34	Karaoke need, for short
18	Singles	49	Shade trees	12	Whatever number	35	Award for a dentist?
19	Gordon and Ginsburg	50	Down	13	Aliens' craft	37	Med. approval org.
21	Mad	51	Caustic solution	14	Enthusiastic, plus	38	Take to the seas
22	It begins at 40	52	"— of Our Lives"	15	Whatever number	39	Black
25	Toe woe	53	Shade trees	16	Whatever number	40	Simple
26	Zig-zagged on skis	54	Down	17	Whatever number	41	Coloring agents
30	Eggs	55	Lower limb	18	Whatever number	44	Can. neighbor
31	Actress Wither-spoon	56	Enthusiastic, plus	19	Whatever number	45	Web address
32	Past	57	Whatever number	20	Whatever number	46	Doctrine
33	Clothing	58	Whatever number	21	Whatever number	47	Vegas
35	Story line	59	Whatever number	22	Whatever number		
36	"— She Sweet?"	60	Whatever number	23	Whatever number		
37	Instant	61	Whatever number	24	Whatever number		
		62	Whatever number	25	Whatever number		
		63	Whatever number	26	Whatever number		
		64	Whatever number	27	Whatever number		
		65	Whatever number	28	Whatever number		
		66	Whatever number	29	Whatever number		
		67	Whatever number	30	Whatever number		
		68	Whatever number	31	Whatever number		
		69	Whatever number	32	Whatever number		
		70	Whatever number	33	Whatever number		
		71	Whatever number	34	Whatever number		
		72	Whatever number	35	Whatever number		
		73	Whatever number	36	Whatever number		
		74	Whatever number	37	Whatever number		
		75	Whatever number	38	Whatever number		
		76	Whatever number	39	Whatever number		
		77	Whatever number	40	Whatever number		
		78	Whatever number	41	Whatever number		
		79	Whatever number	42	Whatever number		
		80	Whatever number	43	Whatever number		
		81	Whatever number	44	Whatever number		
		82	Whatever number	45	Whatever number		
		83	Whatever number	46	Whatever number		
		84	Whatever number	47	Whatever number		
		85	Whatever number	48	Whatever number		
		86	Whatever number	49	Whatever number		
		87	Whatever number	50	Whatever number		
		88	Whatever number	51	Whatever number		
		89	Whatever number	52	Whatever number		
		90	Whatever number	53	Whatever number		

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 12-18

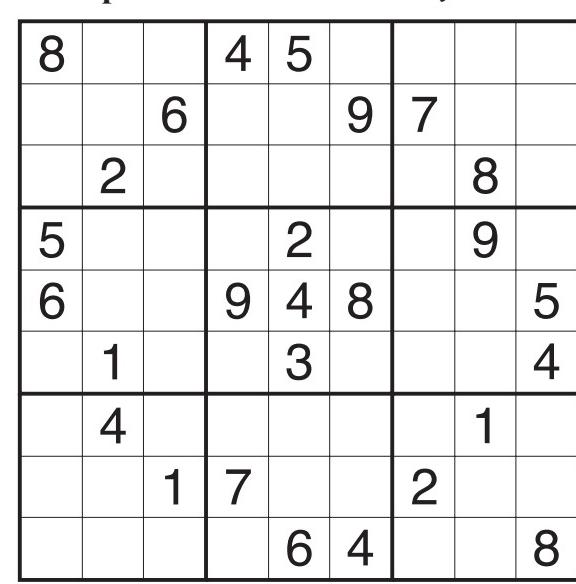
STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	9	7	8	3	2	5	1	4
1	4	8	5	7	9	3	2	6
3	2	5	1	6	4	7	8	9
5	3	6	7	2	1	9	4	8
9	7	4	3	8	6	1	5	2
8	1	2	4	9	5	6	7	3
4	8	3	9	1	7	2	6	5
7	6	9	2	5	8	4	3	1
2	5	1	6	4	3	8	9	7

Difficulty Level ★

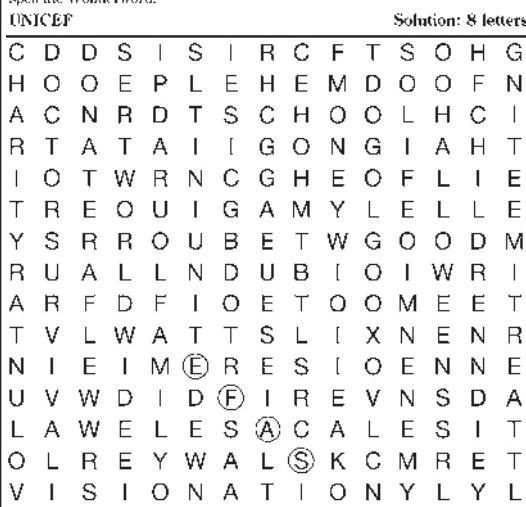
## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

UNICEF

Solution: 8 letters



© 2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 12/18 Case, Charity, Children, Contributions, Crisis, Dedication, Delivery, Doctors, Donate, Family, Food, Goods, Halloween, Help, Host, Hygiene, Lawyer, Lesson, Life, Literacy, Logo, Media, Meeting, Money, Nation, Orange Boxes, Safe, School, Survival, Term, Time, Treat, Trick, UNICEF, United, Vision, Volunteer, Water, Welfare, Women, Worldwide Yesterday's Answer: Sweetheart

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# 49ers clinch playoff berth, 41-34 over Patriots



**FOXBOROUGH, Massachusetts**

(AP)—The San Francisco 49ers earned a playoff berth by withstanding a stunning comeback by New England from a 28-point deficit to beat the Patriots 41-34 on Sunday night in the rain.

Michael Crabtree took a short pass from Colin Kaepernick and sped around cornerback Kyle Arrington for a 38-yard touchdown with 6:25 to go, then David Akers made a 28-yard field goal to clinch it.

San Francisco (10-3-1) owns at least a wild-card spot and plays at Seattle next week with a chance to win the NFC West. A loss would bring the division race down to the final weekend.

Kaepernick threw for four touchdowns, two to Crabtree, who had 107 yards receiving. The defense rattled Tom Brady at times, but also yielded 443 yards passing.

AFC East champion New England (10-4), which had won seven in a row, trailed 31-3 at one point and lost for the first time at home in December in 21 games. The Patriots also had won 21 in a row in the second half of the schedule before San Francisco somehow regrouped late in a game it seemingly had clinched long before.

## Packers 21, Bears 13

In Chicago, the Packers clinched their second straight NFC North title with a win over archrival Chicago.

James Jones caught all three touchdown passes thrown by Aaron Rodgers. Green Bay has now won six straight in the NFL's oldest—and fiercest—rivalry.

The Packers (10-4) have won 12 straight against NFC North opponents, the longest streak in the NFL.

Brandon Marshall had a 15-yard TD catch for the Bears, who have lost five of six and are in danger of missing the playoffs after beginning the year 7-1. Clay Matthews continued his torture of Jay Cutler with two sacks, and Alshon Jeffery hurt the Bears (8-6) with three offensive pass interference calls late in the second half.

## Texans 29, Colts 17

In Houston, the Houston Texans are AFC South champions for the second straight year.

Andre Johnson had 151 yards receiving and a touchdown, Bryan Braman scored on a blocked punt and Shayne Graham kicked five field goals.

The Texans (12-2) grabbed their first AFC South title last season after the Colts nosedived without injured quarterback Peyton Manning. Manning is gone and Andrew Luck couldn't do much against Houston's defense.

The Colts (9-5) had won three straight and needed a win to clinch a playoff berth a year after going 2-14.

J.J. Watt had three sacks as

Houston's defense got back on track a week after a 42-14 loss to New England.

The Texans will have home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs if they win out.

## Redskins 38, Browns 21

In Cleveland, rookie Kirk Cousins threw for 329 yards and two touchdowns filling in for injured star Robert Griffin III, leading Washington to its fifth straight win.

Cousins connected with Leonard Hankerson for both TDs in his first career start and the Redskins (8-6) barely missed a beat without the talented and multi-dimensional RG3, who sat out with a sprained knee.

Last week, Cousins came off the bench after Griffin got hurt. Cousins was behind center from the start of this one and delivered a performance that extended Washington's longest winning streak since 2007 and moved the Redskins into a tie for first in the NFC East.

Rookie Trent Richardson had a pair of TD runs for the Browns (5-9).

## Vikings 36, Rams 22

In St. Louis, Adrian Peterson ran for a season-best 212 yards, including an 82-yard touchdown that fueled the Minnesota's big second quarter.

Peterson has 1,812 yards rushing, leaving him 294 shy of breaking the NFL's single-season record of 2,105 by Eric Dickerson of the Los Angeles Rams in 1984. Peterson, less than a year removed from a serious knee injury, has two games left—at Houston and home against Green Bay—to top Dickerson.

The Vikings (8-6) scored 10 of their 23 points in the second quarter off turnovers by Sam Bradford, including a 29-yard interception return by defensive end Everson Griffen.

The Rams fell to 6-7-1.

## Falcons 34, Giants 0

In Atlanta, Matt Ryan threw three touchdowns passes and Atlanta handed the Giants their first regular-season shutout since 1996.

Julio Jones caught a couple of scoring throws from Ryan, who broke his own franchise records for completions and passing yards in a season. He finished 23 of 28 for 270 yards.

The Falcons (12-2), who have already clinched the NFC South, moved a step closer to locking up home-field advantage throughout the conference playoffs. One more win would lock it up.

Eli Manning threw two interceptions for New York (8-6), which came into the game with a one-game lead over Washington and Dallas in the NFC East.

## Broncos 34, Ravens 17

In Baltimore, Chris Harris returned an interception 98 yards for a momentum-turning



San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Michael Crabtree (15) makes a catch in front of New England Patriots free safety Devin McCourty (32) that he ran in for a touchdown in the third quarter of an NFL football game in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012. AP

touchdown, and Denver won its ninth straight.

Peyton Manning threw for 204 yards and a score in his ninth consecutive win against Baltimore, the first with the Broncos (11-3).

Down 10-0 late in the first half, the Ravens had a first-and-goal at the Denver 4 when Harris stepped in front of Anquan Boldin, picked off a pass by Joe Flacco and sprinted down the right sideline en route to the longest regular-season interception return in Broncos history.

The Ravens (9-5) were playing their first game under offensive coordinator Jim Caldwell, who replaced the fired Cam Cameron. Baltimore clinched a playoff spot by virtue of Pittsburgh's overtime loss to Dallas.

## Seahawks 50, Bills 17

In Toronto, Seattle rookie quarterback Russell Wilson ran for three touchdowns and threw for another in leading the Seahawks to their second straight rout.

Wilson scored on runs of 14, 25 and 4 yards and then hit Zach Miller for a 4-yard touchdown in helping the Seahawks score 31 points on their first five possessions. The defense forced three consecutive turnovers to

start the second half, including Earl Thomas scoring on 57-yard interception return.

A week after a 58-0 win at home against Arizona, the Seahawks (9-5) inched closer to clinching a playoff berth and became the NFL's third team to score 50 points on consecutive weekends. The Bills (5-9) were knocked out of playoff contention for a 13th consecutive season.

## Cowboys 27, Steelers 24 OT

In Arlington, Texas, Brandon Carr intercepted a pass from Ben Roethlisberger to set up Dan Bailey's 21-yard field goal in overtime.

The Cowboys won a Bailey kick on the final play for the second straight week since practice squad linebacker Jerry Brown was killed in a one-car accident that led to manslaughter charges against teammate Josh Brent.

Carr intercepted Roethlisberger's pass along the sideline and returned it 36 yards to the 1. Bailey's kick came after Tony Romo took a 2-yard loss to put the kicker in better position.

The Cowboys (8-6) moved into a three-way tie for the NFC East lead with the Giants and

Redskins. The Steelers (7-7) lost for the fourth time in five games.

## Cardinals 31, Lions 10

In Glendale, Arizona, Greg Toler returned an interception 102 yards for a fourth-quarter touchdown as Arizona ended a nine-game losing streak.

The Cardinals (5-9) intercepted Matthew Stafford three times, returning two for touchdowns and setting up a TD with the other. The Lions (4-10) lost their sixth straight. Rashad Johnson brought back a pick 53 yards for a touchdown to cap Arizona's 21-point second quarter. Patrick Peterson's interception set up another score.

Detroit's Calvin Johnson became the first player in NFL history with consecutive 1,600-yard receiving seasons and tied an NFL record with his seventh straight 100-yard receiving game.

## Panthers 31, Chargers 7

In San Diego, Mike Tolbert scored twice against his former team and DeAngelo Williams turned a tipped pass from Cam Newton into a 45-yard touchdown reception.

The Panthers (8-6) moved into a three-way tie for the NFC

knocked the Chargers out of playoff contention for the third straight year.

The Chargers (5-9) clinched their first losing season since 2003, when they were an NFL-worse 4-12. Coach Norv Turner is expected to be fired at season's end, most likely along with general manager A.J. Smith.

Tolbert capped Carolina's first two drives with 1-yard scoring runs. His second TD was set up when Philip Rivers lost a fumble, his 21st turnover this season and 46th in less than two full seasons.

## Saints 41, Buccaneers 0

In New Orleans, Drew Brees passed for 307 yards and four touchdowns, and New Orleans posted its first shutout since 1995.

Brees connected on his scoring passes with tight end David Thomas, running back Darren Sproles and receivers Lance Moore and Joe Morgan. Mark Ingram added an 11-yard touchdown run.

Josh Freeman endured one of his worst outings of the season for Tampa Bay (6-8), throwing four interceptions and losing a fumble. Jabari Greer made two interceptions, Rafael Bush and Isa Abdul-Quddus the others. Cameron Jordan forced Freeman's fumble on a sack and recovered it.

New Orleans (6-8) also bottled up standout rookie running back Doug Martin, holding him to 16 yards on nine carries.

## Dolphins 24, Jaguars 3

In Miami, Miami kept former teammate Chad Henne out of the end zone, made three fourth-down stops deep in its own territory and benefited from an odd penalty.

Henne, playing in Miami for the first time since he departed as a Dolphins bust last offseason, threw for 221 yards with no turnovers. But the Dolphins turned back three scoring threats, and a go-ahead touchdown for the Jaguars came off the board because of an illegal-substitution penalty.

Ryan Tannehill went 22 for 28 for 220 yards and two scores with no interceptions to help Miami (6-8). The Jaguars (2-12) helped their chances of getting the No. 1 draft pick next April.

## Raiders 15, Chiefs 0

In Oakland, California, Sebastian Janikowski kicked five field goals and Darren McFadden rushed for 110 yards.

The Raiders (4-10) overwhelmed the Chiefs (2-12) to snap a six-game losing streak. Sandwiched around those losses are a pair of wins over Kansas City, a rare bright spot in this disappointing season in Oakland.

There has been little to cheer for this season for the Chiefs, who have lost 10 of 11 games and are tied for the second most losses in franchise history behind a 2-14 mark in 2008.

# Bryant helps Lakers top 76ers, 111-98



**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Kobe Bryant scored 34 points, Metta World Peace added 19 points and a career-high 16 rebounds and the Los Angeles Lakers won consecutive games for the first time in nearly a month with a 111-98 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Sunday.

Dwight Howard had 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers, who led 60-50 at halftime. Darius Morris had a career-high 15 points, all in the first half, and Chris Duhon scored 14.

The Lakers (11-14), who beat Washington 102-96 on Friday night, won two in a row for the first time since a three-game streak from Nov. 16-20.

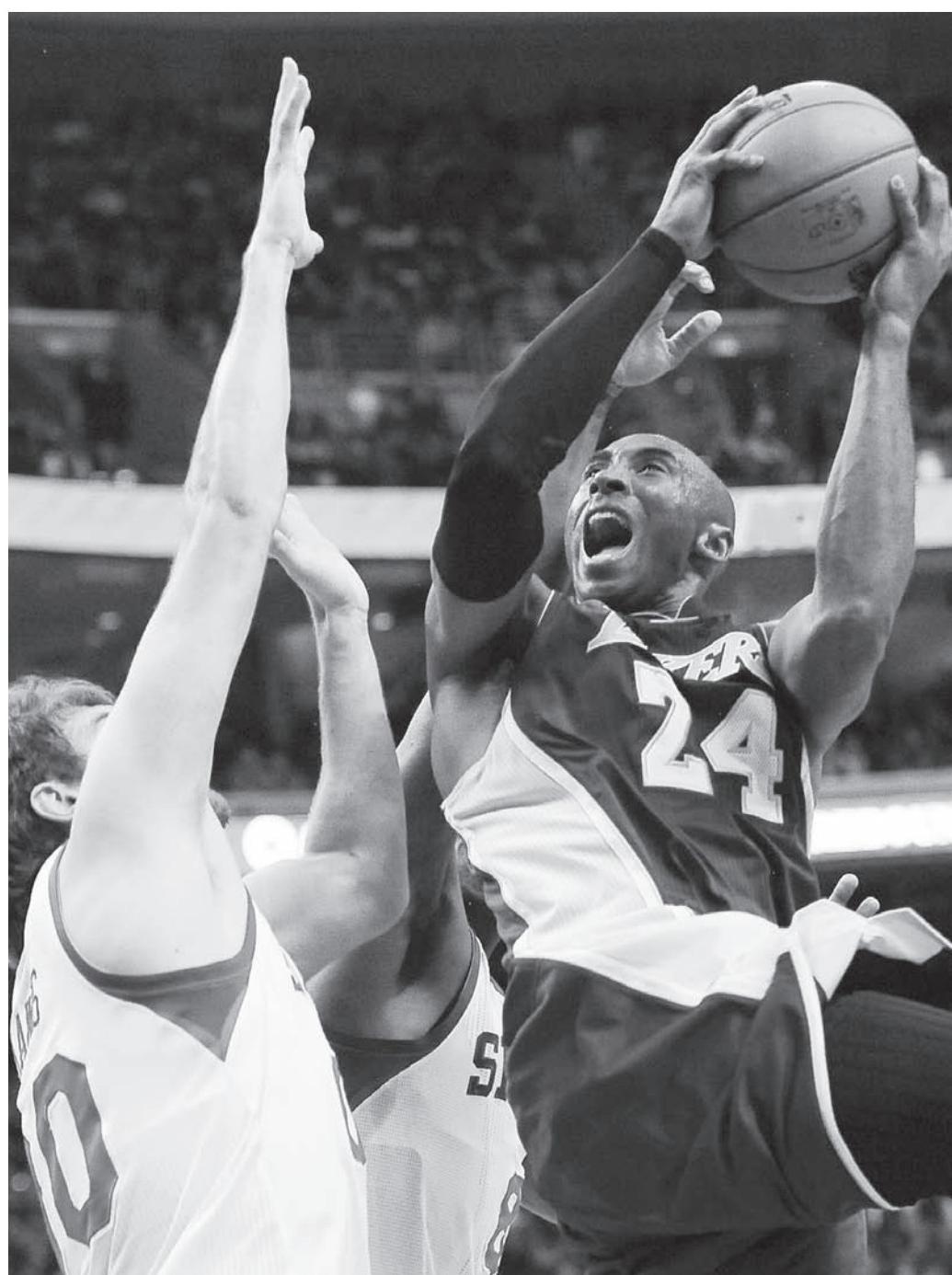
Even without injured stars Steve Nash and Pau Gasol, the Lakers hardly resembled the team which entered the night four games below .500.

Nick Young paced the reeling Sixers (12-12) with 30 points while Spencer Hawes and Evan Turner added 16 apiece. Thaddeus Young had 14 for Philadelphia, which dropped its third straight game for the first time this season.

Like the Lakers, the Sixers also have been playing short-handed. Point guard Jrue Holiday, who averages a team-best 18.4 points, missed his second consecutive game with a sprained left foot.

Los Angeles led 87-73 after three, but the Sixers closed to 91-82 with 8:27 remaining.

The Lakers responded with a 9-3 surge to go back up by 15 at



AP

Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant (24) shoots over Philadelphia 76ers' Spencer Hawes (00) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012, in Philadelphia.

100-85 with 5:15 left. Suddenly, all those boos careening down from the rafters toward Bryant and his teammates turned into fans heading up the aisles to leave the building.

Los Angeles was 14 for 34 from 3-point range. Duhon was 4 for 10 from beyond the arc, and World Peace and Morris each made three 3s.

The Lakers' 10 3s in the first half broke the record for most in a half at the Wells Fargo Center, which opened in 1996.

## Raptors 103, Rockets 96

In Toronto, Jose Calderon had 18 points, 14 assists and 10 rebounds, and Toronto won consecutive games for the first time in eight months with a victory over Houston.

Alan Anderson had 24 points and DeMar DeRozan added 19 for the Raptors (6-19), who hadn't won consecutive games since April 13 and 15 of last season.

James Harden scored 28 points for the Rockets and Marcus Morris added 19.

Former Raptors sharpshooter Carlos Delfino drained two baskets in the final 1:04 to pull the Rockets within two points, but Calderon sunk two free throws to put Toronto back up by four.

The teams traded free throws for most of the final minute.

## Nuggets 122, Kings 97

In Sacramento, California, reserve JaVale McGee scored 19 points, Danilo Gallinari had

18 and Denver built a big lead in the first half to cruise past Sacramento.

The Nuggets scored 16 straight points to snap a first-quarter tie and take control.

Denver has won seven in a row against the Kings. Sacramento has lost four straight overall.

Isaiah Thomas had 20 points and DeMarcus Cousins had 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Kings.

Sacramento's Aaron Brooks committed a hard foul against Andre Miller late in the first quarter and a mild altercation ensued involving Cousins and Kenneth Faried of the Nuggets. All four players were given technical fouls.

## Trail Blazers 95, Hornets 94

In Portland, Oregon, rookie Damian Lillard hit a 3-pointer with 0.3 seconds left as Portland handed New Orleans its sixth straight loss.

After trailing by as many as 16, Austin Rivers hit a 3-pointer for the Hornets to tie it at 92 with 50.9 seconds left to set up Lillard's winner. Lance Thomas made a layup for the Hornets as time ran out for the final margin.

J.J. Hickson had a season-high 24 points and added 16 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who have won three straight. Hickson has five straight double-doubles and 13 overall this season.

Ryan Anderson had 26 points, including seven 3-pointers, for New Orleans.

## Kevin Youkilis, Yankees finalize \$12 million deal



**NEW YORK**

(AP)—After spending 8 1/2 years in Boston and delivering a pair of World Series titles to the Fenway Park faithful, Kevin Youkilis was surprised when the New York Yankees expressed interest in fitting him for pinstripes.

"At first, it was kind of like, 'Wow!'" he said Friday after finalizing a \$12 million, one-year contract with New York. "There's a lot of great Red Sox fans that just wanted the best for me going forward and I know there's going to be some that don't like the decision, and you can't worry about that."

A three-time All-Star, Youkilis becomes the Yankees' starting third baseman for at least the first half of next season while Alex Rodriguez recovers from hip surgery. A-Rod's operation is scheduled for next month.

"Obviously, he certainly cushions the blow of losing Alex," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "That's a difficult loss. When you have a healthy Alex Rodriguez, you have really one of the game's

more productive players. But I couldn't think of anybody better to replace him in the short-term with as Kevin Youkilis."

While announcing the deal for Youkilis, the Yankees closed in on a \$13 million, two-year contract with outfielder Ichiro Suzuki, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

The sides still had to finalize language and the deal will be subject to a physical, the person said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the agreement was not complete. Suzuki will get \$6.5 million a year.

Youkilis, traded from the Red Sox to the Chicago White Sox in June, joined Babe Ruth, Wade Boggs, Roger Clemens and Johnny Damon as Boston players who made the switch to the Bronx in the heated rivalry. He'll get an early look at his old club: The Red Sox are set to open at Yankee Stadium on April 1.

"I reached out to Johnny. He just said you're going to love the experience. It's a great place to play," Youkilis said.

But Damon also has felt the wrath of Red Sox fans.

"He's had a hard time in Bos-

ton. I saw him the other day. It's kind of upsetting to him, the fact that they've been pretty rough on him," Youkilis said.

He also plans to speak with Yankees reliever Joba Chamberlain. The pair feuded in the past over tight fastballs.

"It's not a big deal to me," Youkilis said. "If it was that big of a deal, I wouldn't be signing with the Yankees."

Chamberlain left Youkilis a voicemail this week, but they haven't spoken.

"I haven't been able to return so many calls," Youkilis said. "But I'll reach out to him and talk to him."

If and when Rodriguez returns, Youkilis figures to see time at first base backing up Mark Teixeira. He also could get some games at designated hitter.

"And they told me I'm going to play shortstop, too," Youkilis said before quickly adding he had no intention of taking time away from Yankees captain Derek Jeter: "I'm just kidding. They're definitely not going to put me at short. If they put me at short, we're going to be in a lot of trouble."

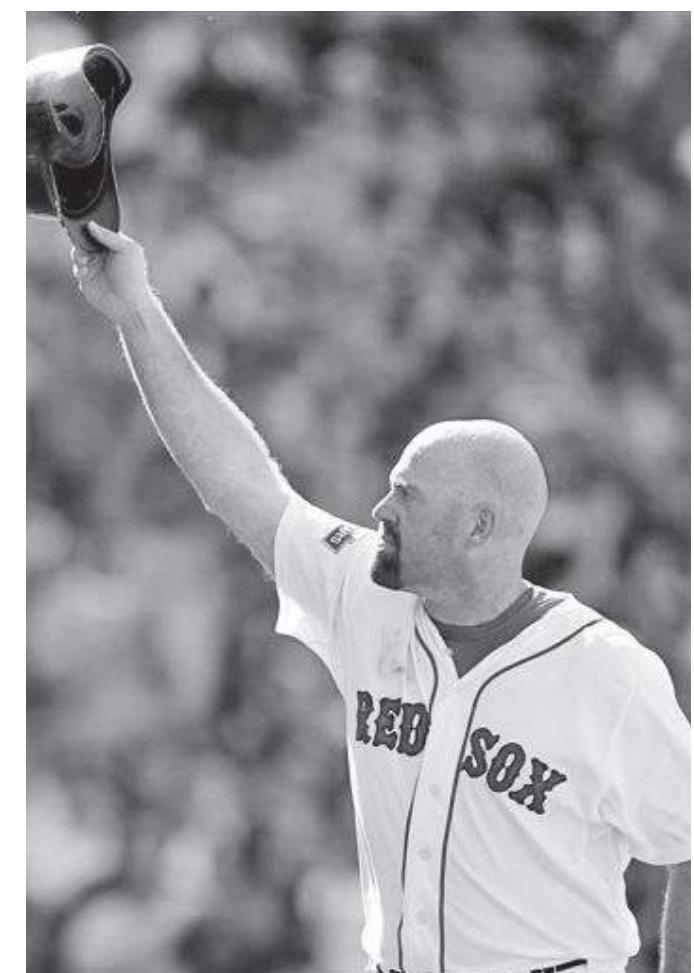
Rodriguez, who turns 38 in July, will have surgery in mid-January, and the Yankees said the anticipated recovery time is six months.

"I'm not going to guarantee anything about when he's coming back or how he'll come back. So we'll just have to wait and see," Cashman said. "We hope we can bring him back into the fold and have the high-caliber player that we hoped to have prior to these injuries. But our season and our team is going on regardless, and therefore that's why this was such an important acquisition."

Rodriguez is owed \$114 million by the Yankees as part of his record \$275 million, 10-year contract.

"I'm not in a position here to guarantee anything or frame what the realistic expectations are as we move forward over the next five years with what we're going to get from him," Cashman said. "I just think we have to play it out and see."

To make room for Youkilis on the 40-man roster, the Yankees designated left-hander Josh Spence for assignment.



In this June 24, 2012, file photo, Boston Red Sox's Kevin Youkilis tips his helmet as he comes off the field after hitting a triple and being replaced with a pinch runner in the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves in Boston.

# Donaire heads Fighter of the Year favorites



**HOUSTON, Texas—** If blasting Jorge Arce into oblivion is Nonito Donaire Jr.'s way of getting attention, then he has succeeded.

Donaire, dubbed "The Filipino Flash," made a strong case for 2012 Fighter of the Year honors of the Boxing Writers Association of America with a third-round knockout of four-division champion Arce Saturday night at Toyota Center here.

While fighting twice or thrice a year has become the norm for elite fighters, the 30-year-old Donaire fought four quality opponents this year, hurdling each one with aplomb.

On Feb. 4, Donaire bested former

world champion Wilfredo Vasquez Jr. to clinch the WBO 122-pound title. On July 7, he dominated then IBF champion Jeffrey Mathebula, to unify the titles. Next to fall was WBC super bantam king Toshiaki Nishioka, who hung up his gloves after a ninth-round stoppage on Oct. 16.

Arce announced his retirement right after the beating he absorbed from Donaire, who is riding an 11-year, 30-bout win streak en route to a 31-1 record with 20 knockouts.

Informed that he is again a leading contender for Fighter of the Year, Donaire, who made the final five nominees in last year's race won by Andre Ward, said Saturday he is leaving the



Nonito Donaire, left, hits Jorge Arce during their WBO junior featherweight title boxing match Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012, in Houston. Donaire knocked Arce out in the third round. (AP)

the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Topics for discussion include the start up of the upcoming 2013 season, substitute field selections,

adoption of the new ground rules, final count of participating teams, recruitment efforts, and fundraising generation.

Damir Davletbaev (30.25 seconds). Wong's winning time also surpassed his PBT (31 seconds) and besides Davletbaev, he edged two other swimmers with better entry time than him.

Kimura also set a new PBT in the 50m breaststroke after completing the race in 31.88 seconds. His entry time stood at 32.01 seconds, the third best among the nine swimmers on Heat 5. He finished third on his heat behind Saint Lucia's Bradford Worrell (30.48 seconds) and Turkmenistan's Rusian

Nazarov (31.37 seconds). Norway's Aleksander Hetland recorded the fastest qualifying time in the event with his 26.60 seconds.

Chentsova was the last CNMI swimmer to race in Turkey via the 200m freestyle last Sunday morning and her 2:20.00 was there seconds faster than her previous PBT (2:23.01). The lone female swimmer for the Commonwealth was on Heat 2 and finished seventh in her group. Hungary's Zsuzsanna Jakabos ruled the preliminary

definitely won Round 2 after the more or less an even opening canto.

Vidaurri is a smart and nimble wrestler with a kind of a defensive approach to fighting that likely saved him from a number of potentially damaging blows thrown by Layuug who employed a more risky, offensive approach.

The chess match ensued through the deciding round until Layuug landed a big body slam and immediately covered his opponent, racking up extra points with some long-awaited strikes from the top. He then took Vidaurri's back for a bit and rode out the rest of the time with side control. The latter scrambled in haste, but did not have time to launch a comeback.

Meanwhile, Tinian's Rino Reyes of Zeng Zung and K-1 Kick Boxer's Regino "The Kid" Mundo (5-1) also notched first round wins last weekend in 1:50 and 0:31, respectively.

Reyes bull-rushed his 160-lb catch-weight opponent out of Team Legit, L.J. "Mak Po" George (0-1), and rang his bell with a big right hook that sent him to the canvas.

George appeared disoriented and hardly made an attempt to defend himself after he fell. He may have been knocked out even though the referee did not intervene, but fortunately, the scary moment only lasted a few seconds. Reyes showed class and reverted from dishing out an unnecessary knockout blow. George remained down for a minute after the

fight, but was able to get up and leave under his own power.

"The Kid" Mundo made light work of independent featherweight Mike Manalo and imposed a TKO-referee stoppage win in just 31 seconds. The K-1 veteran flew out of his corner like a bat out of hell and dominated Manalo in all aspects of the game.

Tinian was supposed to have three fighters featured in Trench Warz 16, but Zeng-Zung's Pete Cepeda (1-2) had to bow out at the last minute, reportedly because of an unspecified injury, thus Mariana's Elite's Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar (4-12) was gifted a forfeit win to help pad a record in desperate need of an upswing.

Rangamar actually pleaded his case to be added into the bantamweight title conservation with current champion Josh "The Hedgehog" Alvarez (12-5) of Spike 22 and former belt-holder Mark "The Dark" Nuique (8-2), who have twice battled it out with the former coming out on top both times. Alvarez did not make a preference as to who will be his next opponent when approached by potential challengers just seconds after winning his prize.

In other results, flyweight K.J. Villagomez (2-0), of Team Sea Horse, Inc., started off the evening's MMA havoc with a first round victory (1:58) over independent rival Leonard "Machine Gun" Sablan (0-1).

Some bad blood resided between the CNMI wildcards coming into the fight,

perfect 4-0 mark in Group 1, beating the Giants, Midgets, Cows Are Strong, and LDD FC, which earned a 3-1 card.

Group 2 had the Red Thunder, Fiesta, Bumble Beach, FC Tanzawa, and Posse'. Red Thunder went on to sweep its pool matches and was joined by Fiesta in the semifinal round. Preliminary games were played in three five-minute periods.

In the Final Four, the Sexy Beaches

faced elimination when it fell behind Fiesta at halftime, 0-1, before getting its rhythm in the second half. LDD FC pulled off an upset over the top-ranked Red Thunder, 3-2. The semis and the finals were played in two six-minute halves. Coach Jershwin Angeles' Fiesta went on to save third place against the Steve McKagan-mentored Red Thunder.

Prizes were handed out to the Top 4

choice up to the US sportswriters.

Donaire said it would be a welcome Christmas gift for him if he takes this year's plum. He has actually dominated the best in the 122-pound division and wants to clean up the remaining elite fighters like Abner Mares and Guillermo Rigondeaux.

Donaire is the first boxer to submit to year-round random drug testing administered by the Voluntarily Anti-Doping Association.

If he gets selected as Fighter of the Year, Donaire will join compatriot Manny Pacquiao in the elite roster. Pacquiao won the award in 2006, 2008 and 2009 and was chosen as BWAA's Fighter of the Decade. ([www.inquirer.net](http://www.inquirer.net))

## CTSI/D&Q

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first 3:10 of the fourth canto to turn a 5-point deficit to an 84-76 advantage. Fradel Sedillo, who had already scored 24 points after the third period, sat out at the start of the fourth, leaving Rommel Usi as the only offensive threat for Shirley's. Usi missed his first three attempts in the fourth and Shirley's committed a couple of errors against the surging CTSI/D&Q before Sedillo stopped the bleeding with a fastbreak layup, 78-84, 6:40 left on the clock.

However, CTSI/D&Q managed to keep its distance against Shirley's in the remaining minutes of the closely fought finals with Edgar Garcia providing support to Lizama and Jinang. Garcia canned crucial short jumpers from the baseline and scored 10 of his 12 points in the fourth frame with 8 of them made in the final half of the canto to help CTSI/D&Q thwart Shirley's rally attempts.

Shirley's made one final push in the last 7 seconds when Usi converted a triple and sliced CTSI/D&Q's lead to 2, 103-105. Shirley's then gave up a quick foul and the gamble paid off, as Kintirino Elieisar muffed both charities with still five seconds left. Eric Dela Rosa then collared the rebound, but was rattled at the backcourt, as he threw a pitch to no one on their frontcourt. Sedillo was still at the backcourt, while Usi just crossed the mid-court when the ball hit the ground before rolling out to the baseline. CTSI/D&Q got the possession back and Lizama dribbled out the last two seconds to secure the championship win.

Lizama finished with a team-high 41 points, scoring 14 in the fourth-quarter rally, including six free throws in the homestretch. His split off an unsportsmanlike foul on Usi gave CTSI/D&Q a 103-106 lead in the last 22 seconds and Jinang added another charity after their team kept possession and Shirley's was forced to foul. Lizama upped the lead to 5 when he got a steal in the inbound play and later went 1-for-2 anew at the stripe.

Behind by 5 points, Shirley's refused to give up, as Usi, who was called for the earlier infraction for hanging on to Lizama's jersey in a fastbreak play, made up for his booboo with a triple from the right corner. However, Shirley's still fell short after Dela Rosa's error in the dying seconds of the finale.

Usi led Shirley's losing cause with a game-high 44 markers, while Sedillo chipped in 32. Dela Rosa still finished in twin digits with his 14, but muffed several point-blank shots in the fourth.

Jinang matched Sedillo's output, connecting on seven triples, which kept CTSI/D&Q in the game in the first three quarters.

CTSI/D&Q was awarded the championship trophy right after the tight match, while POI took the third place trophy after another no-show from Fiesta Resort & Spa in the consolation game. Shirley's was also given the second place trophy.

**CTSI/D&Q 105** – Lizama 41, Jinang 32, Garcia 12, Mendiola 10, Shai 4, Elieisar 2.

**Shirley's Coffee Shop 103** – Usi 44, Sedillo 32, Dela Rosa 14, Yap 7, Escalada 2, Merencilla 2, Galaro 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 19-22, 47-48, 71-76, 105-103.

## SIX

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5 of the 100m IM and posted 1:02.56, .33 seconds faster than his previous PBT of 1:02.89. The 16-year-old swimmer finished fifth in the heat and 56th overall with a split time of 29.22 seconds.

Kimura and Wong then wrapped up their stint in the 25-meter pool competition via the 50m breaststroke with the latter ruling Heat 6 after submitting 30.09 seconds and defeating Kyrgyzstan's

Damir Davletbaev (30.25 seconds). Wong's winning time also surpassed his PBT (31 seconds) and besides Davletbaev, he edged two other swimmers with better entry time than him.

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but the conflict should be squashed from now on. Both young bucks tumbled back and forth in a blur from the get-go, however once Villagomez got a good hold on Sablan it did not take him long at all to sink in a submission.

He almost caught Sablan in a rear-naked choke, but ended up sealing the deal with an impressive guillotine that made the latter tap out.

Zalaka's Jordan Manglona (2-1) improved his K-1 card to 2-2 by earning a unanimous decision over Guam Muay Thai-debut fighter D.J. Duenas.

According to eyewitness accounts, Manglona started strong and took Round 1, but Duenas rallied back in the second round. The fight remained close through the deciding third round, but the former retained the lead he established from the start.

Team Countershot Guam's ever-patient Leandro Dalalo (1-1) broke into the win column with a come-from-behind TKO victory over Predator Combat's "Tabi" Jay Muna (5-20) via referee stoppage at 2:21 into the second round of their bantamweight.

Muna led after the opening frame, but Dalalo came out of his corner for Round 2 with much more aggression and scored a quick takedown after which he maneuvered in and out of a number of dominant positions on the ground.

Once Dalalo was able to begin adding ground and pound blows, the fight was over rather quickly.

finishers of the weekend tournament with the Sexy Beaches getting medals, phones from IT&E, and cash. LDD FC and Fiesta also received medals and cash prizes, while the Red Thunder took home phone cards, also from IT&E.

Organizers also presented medals to "Golden Boot" awardees Yvonne Indalecio of LDD FC and Red Thunder's Zhi Peng Lin.

## SEXY

From Page 28

Dec. 8 and clinched the championship after whipping the Arkie Reusora-mentored LDD FC in the finals, 4-1.

The Sexy Beaches and LDD FC were bracketed in Group 1 and finished in the Top 2 to advance to the crossover semifinal. The Sexy Beaches held a

# 2012 SSC Jingle Bell Fun Run



**PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO**



Saipan Swim Club president Robert Torres briefs runner about the course.



Eventual top finisher Steve Pixley heads to the finish line.



Two student runners in a close race to the finish.



A spectator takes pictures of two sprinting runners.



Saipan Swim Club's masters swimmer Suzy Kindel keeps her pace as she nears the finish line.



"Hanako" runs to the finish line with Mamiko Oshima-Berger, left, and Kimiko McKagan.



Runners make their way out of the pathwalk near the Minatchom Atdao pavilion across the Oleai Sports Complex.



Saipan Swim Club coach Jacoby Winkfield calls out the number of the two runners heading to the finish line.



Participants in the fun run leisurely take walk along Beach Road.



**49ers clinch playoff berth, 41-34 over Patriots**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Bryant helps Lakers top 76ers, 111-98**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

**28** TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2012

# Rezne gains two more wins in Turkey

**» Kensuke, Victoria set PBTs**

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The CNMI Team had a fitting finale performance in the 11th FINA World Swimming Championships.

Rezne Wong prevailed in his last two preliminary races, while teammates Kensuke Kimura and Victoria Chentsova recorded personal best times over the weekend at the Sinan Erdem Arena in Istanbul, Turkey to cap the Commonwealth's campaign in the five-day competition.

Wong had the 100m individual medley as his penultimate



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI swimmer Rezne Wong, fourth from left, plunges into the pool during one of his races in the FINA World Swimming Championships at the Sinan Erdem Arena in Istanbul, Turkey last week.



event last Saturday morning (Saturday evening on Saipan) and bested eight other swimmers on Heat 5 after clocking in at 57.89 seconds. The 21-year-old swimmer also set a new PBT in the short course, eclipsing his entry time of 1:02.00. He finished about two seconds ahead of Peru's Enrique Duran Garcia-Bedoya (59.84 seconds), who had the fastest PBT on Heat 5 at 1:00.68. Three other swimmers on Heat 5 held better PBTs than Wong, but placed behind the CNMI bet.

The University of Hawaii-Manoa swimmer's time was ranked No. 37 among 73 finishers and had a split time of 27.57 seconds. Ryan Lochte submitted the fastest qualifying time at 51.75 seconds and also won the gold medal in the event.

Kimura joined Wong on Heat

**See REZNE on  
Page 26**

## CTSI/D&Q bags championship

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

CTSI/D&Q waited for the right moment to explode en route to beating Shirley's Coffee Shop in the winner-take-all finale, 105-103, in the 2012 2nd Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The perfect time came at the start of the fourth quarter with CTSI/D&Q dropping a 13-0 bomb and withstanding Shirley's repeated comeback bids in the homestretch to hand the latter another bridesmaid finish. Shirley's lost to Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last season.

Shirley had momentum going its way in the closing minutes of the third canto when CTSI/D&Q's Shane Mendiola fouled out and Jack Lizama was one foul away from disqualification. Shirley's led by as much as 8 points in the third before ending the canto with a 76-71 advantage.

Down, but definitely not out, CTSI/D&Q gambled on the foul-troubled Lizama, keeping the mobile big in the game in the fourth canto. Lizama went on to team up with Ariel Jinang in dropping a 13-0 bomb in the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
CTSI/D&Q's Jack Lizama is double-teamed by two Shirley's Coffee Shop defenders during their title game in the Tan Holdings caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

## Six wrestle out wins in Trench Warz 16

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

**TRENCH TECH**

Trench Tech Purebred Promotion's Trench Warz 16: Fire Power sent off the 2012 mixed martial arts season with holiday spirit as victory spoils went out to six different represented groups from Saipan, Guam, and Tinian last Friday evening at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom.



Layuug



Reyes

For starters, Jomar "Dynamite" Danas of host team Trench Tech exploded on Dat

Gym/Team Legit's Yoichi "Rangatang" Arurang in their

**See SIX on Page 26**

## Sexy Beaches rules Fiesta beach soccer tourney



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Sexy Beach pose with their medals and other prizes during the awards ceremony for the Fiesta U18 Co-ed 5 on 5 Beach Soccer Tournament held early this month at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand court. Also in the photo is Fiesta resident manager Abner Acosta, standing left.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The Sexy Beaches topped the Fiesta U18 Co-ed 5-on-5 Beach Soccer Tournament held early this month at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand court.

The champion team is composed of Enrico del Rosario, Jahn Joyner, Kennedy Izuka, Jireh Yobech, Timothy Tawanspit, John Taisacan, Greg Sablan, Marc Mora, Charlene Lizardo, and Negahr Rastguiy. Norman del Rosario coached the winning squad that was undefeated in the 10-team tournament played on

**See SEXY on Page 26**